



Maplewood Times

Celebrating Rochester's Historic Northwest Neighborhood

December 2009

City Councilmember Carla Palumbo: Sharing Insights and Information On Gender Violence With South African Officials

On September 30, I had the opportunity, and the pleasure, to meet with a delegation of five visiting South African officials who were in the United States to take part in a three-week project sponsored by the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) titled "Countering Gender Violence: A Project for South Africa."

The Rochester International Council, the local affiliate of the IVLP, organized the group's five-day visit to our community. Joining me for an in-depth discussion about some of the efforts underway to ensure equal rights for women were: Mr. Neville Dampies, Provincial Coordinator, Forensic Social Work for the South African Police Services; Mr. Tshilidzi Masikhwa, Manager, Access to Justice, Thohoyandou Victim Empowerment Program; Ms. Nonhlanhla Mokwena, Frontline Service Coordinator, People Opposing Women Abuse; Ms. Hildegard

Monei, Senior Advocate and Maintenance Prosecutor, National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa; and Ms. Sharita Samuel, Attorney, Durban Legal Assistance.



The Rochester International Council invited me to meet with the South African officials because of the work I've done related to gender motivated violence. In 2007, while still serving as an elected official in the Monroe County Legislature, I sponsored a piece of legislation titled, *Article 1 Right to*

Shelter for Victims of Domestic or Dating Violence. This legislation, which was adopted and approved into law, makes it unlawful for victims of domestic or dating violence to be subjected to discrimination when attempting to rent, lease, or sell a property.

Following a light lunch at City Hall, where I had the chance to chat with the delegation and learn a little more about them, we began our meeting in earnest. A great deal of our time was spent talking about various issues relating to domestic violence and gender violence. A large portion of our discussion also focused on the contents of an undergraduate textbook that I helped to co-author, *The Law of Sex Discrimination, 3rd Edition*.

Additionally, I was able to share some of my experience and insight as Director of the Civil Division of the Legal Aid Society of Rochester, as well as information on how local government works in the United States, from my perspective as a City Councilmember.

All in all, it was certainly an educational and enlightening afternoon. I hope the South African delegation will be able to use and adapt some of the information I was able to share with them. I truly hope they benefited from the conversation and cross-cultural information exchange as much as I did.

Help Women and Children in Need

Help make the holidays brighter for women and children in need.

"Adopt" a woman taking part in the YWCA's Housing or Young Parents programs and shop for wish-list items such as warm winter clothing for her and her children. Donors participating in the YWCA's Adopt-A-Family drive are asked to purchase 1-3 gifts for each woman and child based on a wish list that is provided. Or donors can participate in the YWCA's Shoebox Holiday Drive by arranging a collection of necessities like shampoo, toothbrushes, formula, and diapers among co-workers, neighbors, or at school. Personal care items are then placed in a shoebox (gift wrapped for the holiday) and distributed to women served by the YWCA.

The need is great, but with your help we can make the holidays brighter for over 200 families this holiday season. For more information, visit www.ywcarochester.org or contact April Adams at: (585)368-2261.



FYI...

Articles submitted by Cindy Kaleh, Monroe County Legislator, 28th District.

RGH Announces a Special Conference On Refugee Healthcare: Challenges and Solutions

* “Refugee healthcare is a complicated undertaking for all of those involved – providers, ancillary personnel, community agencies and public health systems. It is, however, a necessary and critically important response that changes the lives of thousands of people who have experienced forced migration as a result of humanitarian emergencies. Rochester General Hospital is hosting a conference that will include plenary and workshop discussions that are relevant to all stakeholders in the care of refugees.” (**excerpt of flyer*)

This critical dialogue comes at a time when well over 300 of our neighbors in Maplewood are refugees from multiple countries, Somalia, Bhutan, Nepal and Burma. Securing good healthcare services for all our new residents is critical not only for the refugee families but also for the communities as a whole. Refugees entering the United States are eligible for resettlement services for the first six months of residence. Currently many individuals are facing difficulty in establishing a primary care relationship with a physician or group within that window of time. Catholic Family Services and the Refugee Mission Group are working to improve this healthcare issue. I will be attending the conference in two weeks and will offer a review of the proceedings in the next Maplewood Times.

THE NYS CHILD RESTRAINT LAW - Effective November 24, 2009, all children under the age of 8 must be restrained in an appropriate child restraint system while riding in a motor vehicle.

There are a number of changes to this very important safety legislation. To view the entire notice, from the Monroe County Office of Traffic Safety, visit www.monroecounty.gov or call their office at 585-753-7016 Monroe County is offering to present to any group interested. For a hard copy, contact Cindy Kaleh at 585-647-3929 and leave your name and address.

NorthWest Quadrant News Letter - The NorthWest Quadrant Team Leader, Jose Cruz, has recently sent out the Inaugural issue of the NorthWest Quadrant Newsletter. This edition may be found on our website at www.maplewood.org. Copies will be made available at the Maplewood Library and at the next MNA Town Meeting, Dec. 2nd 7:00 p.m. at Aquinas, 1127 Dewey Avenue.

Rainbow Social Club of Maplewood

Though chilly and overcast outside, inside Dark Horse Coffee was buzzing with friendly chatter during the inaugural meeting of The Rainbow Social Club of Maplewood on the evening of Tuesday, October 27th.

The sole mission of this new social network is to unite, support, and attract Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender members of the Maplewood Neighborhood; welcoming anyone who advocates gay and related civil-rights.

“Maplewood has a wonderfully diverse population. Since many of us are so busy with work and home, it’s important that we have a vehicle like The Rainbow Social Club of Maplewood to bring us together and build community,” commented John Bersch, co-organizer of RSCM.

As the name and mission statement indicate, this group is open to **everyone**. A message evidently successfully conveyed, as the demographics at the meeting were tremendously varied: gay, straight, single and married.

The group has hopes of fostering positive changes within the Maplewood Neighborhood and has already begun to schedule several social events, including a Christmas soiree in mid-December.

For more information on the Christmas soiree or for further details regarding RSCM those interested are encouraged to drop John or his co-organizer, Barbara Astorga-Schmidt, an email at MaplewoodRainbow@gmail.com.



Maplewood Neighbors Winners at Landmark

The next time you run into Dennis or Carol Reed, congratulate them on their recent win on the “2009 Inside Downtown Tour” Most likely the couple didn’t anticipate winning a gift certificate for a retreat at The Retreat House Massage and Wellness Center, when they decided to go exploring downtown. Hey you never know.

Congratulations to the Reeds!

Aquinas Institute December Events

The Aquinas Institute invites current 6th and 8th grade students to sit for the Early Admission and Scholarship Exam on Saturday, December 5th. Interested students should report to the Aquinas Student Union between 8:00 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., and bring two #2 pencils and \$10.

The Aquinas Institute would like to invite neighbors to attend our holiday performances in the newly renovated Thomas F. Bell '57 auditorium.

The Aquinas Concert, Jazz and Junior High bands will feature holiday favorites and more on Sunday, December 13th at 2:30 p.m.

The vocal music department will perform the Christmas section of Handel's Messiah on Monday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. A suggested donation of \$5 will be accepted at the door. The performance will feature an ensemble of AQ students, faculty, staff, parents, and alumni. The program will also include music sung by The Aquinas Junior High School Choir.

Information can be found on the Aquinas website at www.aquinasinstitute.com. - Article submitted by Lisa Clicquennoi, Communications Coordinator

Changes at Nazareth Schools

Patricia E. Carroll, SSJ, President of The Nazareth Schools: The Hall The Academy announces a new chapter in our ongoing mission of education at The Nazareth Schools: The Hall The Academy.

Starting September 2010, Nazareth Hall Elementary School students, grades pre-k through 5, will move to the Nazareth Academy and Nazareth Hall Middle School campus on Lake Avenue. This decision to bring all of our students together will offer enhanced academic opportunities to our elementary, middle school and high school curriculum and provide greater operational efficiency.

We are leasing the Raines Park campus, which now houses the Nazareth Elementary School to a private group, which plans to use the building for childhood educational purposes.

We will have more details for an article for the Maplewood Times Email-edition as our plans move forward in 2010.

We are pleased about the changes ahead and are proud to be maintaining the tradition of Catholic education in the Maplewood neighborhood.

Visit the Nazareth Schools website: www.nazarethschools.org



Congress Extends, Modifies First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit

On November 6th, President Obama signed into law the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 (HR 3548), which extended supplemental payments to unemployed Americans. In addition, the Act extended the homebuyer tax credit until May 1, 2010, and loosened eligibility requirements. Income limits have been raised to \$150,000 for a single filer and \$225,000 for joint filers.

Additionally, existing homeowners meeting certain criteria are now eligible for a tax credit of up to \$6,500 for purchasing a new principal residence if they have lived in their primary residence for five consecutive years out of the last eight. HR 3548 passed the House November 5 by a vote of 403-12 after passing the Senate by a vote of 98-0 the previous day. To view additional [bill information](#), visit the Library of Congress website.

Get Involved!

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



Maplewood Gardening Team:

A group of residents who plant and maintain flowers in planters and gardens along Dewey and Lake Avenue. If you would like to help water, email: maplewood.gardening.team@gmail.com or call 647-9504.

Maplewood Neighborhood Assoc. (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. **Winter MNA Town Meetings are: Dec. 2nd 2009, Jan. 6th 2010, Feb. 3rd & March 3rd 2010.**

NIMROD (Neighbors In Motion to Root Out Drugs). Every third Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., 858 Dewey Avenue, 458-1310.

PAC-TAC (Police and Citizens Together Against Crime). Volunteers who work closely with the Rochester Police Department to provide a citizen presence on the street. Info-Lyell NSC - 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 Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. Aquinas Café.

Info-Westside RPD - 428-9810.

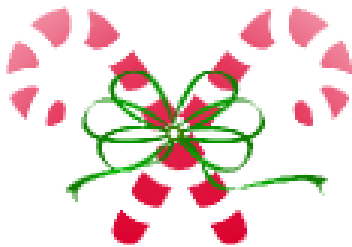


Playground Grows Again

The Maplewood Playground has grown over the past month. Funding secured for the replacement of the original RS Leathers playground, came from many sources, but this last phase was due to Assemblyman Joseph Morelle and Senator James Alesi. The legislators' concern and commitment to our neighborhood secured twenty thousand dollars to complete the final phase of the playground.

The equipment was installed this month and final touches to the perimeter are all that is left to do; too late for this season but right on time for spring 2010.

Many of us in Maplewood lament the loss of the "Castle" built more than fifteen years ago, by over thirteen hundred volunteers, but the new structure serves us well offering a safe play area that continues to attract families to this wonderful park area.
Article submitted by C. Kaleh



SELLabration Hydration

The Neighborhood Hydration Station, a modern day lemonade stand, made its grand opening during Maplewood SELLabration: community-wide yard sale in July.

It was made entirely from recycled wood from old pallets by Alameda Street resident, Tom Lowry, and of course included help from the kids. They had a great time working the stand and it sure did attract a lot of attention. Maplewood resident, Dan Olean, took this shot exploring HDR using Photomatrix. He shot a seven frame, exposure bracketed series, one EV apart, on a tripod in high speed burst mode. He used all seven exposures to generate the wide dynamic range image and then used the Detail Enhancer tone mapping method for a slightly illustrative look. He saved the image as a 16-bit tiff and then imported into Nikon Capture NX2 for local and global adjustments. *Article submitted by B. Astorga-Schmidt.*



New Agency Partnership in Maplewood - Building Strong Communities and Grace Urban Ministries

Established in August 2009, the concept of Building Strong Communities (BSC) has been evolving for the last 4-5 years. The program was conceived and is run by Executive Director, Hassani Walker, an Addictions Counselor at Clifton Springs Hospital. Over the summer Walker was the Program Coordinator for Rochester Rehabilitation Center's Youth Employment Program, working at Industry with career training for their 'students'. Realizing there was a need for follow up services upon release, Walker created BSC to address the needs of persons who have completed periods of incarceration as well as members of our community who have had difficulty securing employment and referrals through the traditional methods.

At BSC, they are in the process of establishing Success Coach mentoring as well as facilitating Life skills Programs for people who are currently housed at MCCF.

BSC has six Success Coaches and three Business Development Managers. Our Business Development Managers are WEP workers who we have trained to provide clerical and marketing support for our agency. BSC started North Star Career Training Workshops, meeting every Monday at Grace Urban Ministries from 1-3PM. This is a 4-week cycle focusing on completing applications, resumes, budget and finance groups and life skill workshops. Each participant will be assigned a Success Coach who will assist him or her with maximizing and capitalizing on their 'hidden' and untapped potential.

Walker states, "We have identified that people have to have their spirits uplifted and allow them to take an active role in their individual success efforts." Funding has been secured mostly through the faith-based community and BSC is currently in the processes of applying for grants.

There is a need of community support on many levels. Anyone interested in helping visit the BSC website: www.buildingstrongcommunities.webs.com or call Mr. Walker at 585-458-9876. - *Article submitted by C. Kaleh*

Contact Us

Maplewood Neighborhood Asso.
P.O. Box 13529
Rochester, NY 14613 or 458-3460

The Maplewood Times staff:

Editors: Dick Bennett, Cindy Kaleh.

Layout design: Margaret Popolizio

Masthead design: Susan Thomas

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

This publication is paid for in part by the City of Rochester Economic Development Department.