



# *The Lilac Letter*

## *Spring 2009*



Lilac Neighbors is a community organization with Castle Park and Highland Park Condominiums as the north south boundaries, and South and Mt. Hope Avenues as the east west borders. All residents are welcome at our events. If you have questions about Lilac Neighbors or The Lilac Letter, please call Joan Gray Lindberg at 244-1217.

This newsletter was made possible by a NeighborGood Grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

### **A Birthday Party and A Divinity School Tour**

You are cordially invited to a Birthday Celebration  
in honor of  
Frederick Law Olmstead,  
Landscape Architect of Highland, Seneca and Genesee Parks.  
Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.  
The Lamberton Conservatory Reservoir Avenue

There will be a guided tour of The Poets Garden, an opportunity to visit the newly reconstructed Lamberton Conservatory, and birthday cake all around.



*The Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School  
invites*

*the Lilac and Azalea Neighbors  
to meet President Gene Bay  
and tour the campus on the hill.*

*Tuesday April 21 at 5 p.m.*

*Meet at 5 p.m. at the front door of Strong Hall.*

*Please RSVP to the Lindbergs at 244-1217 by April 19<sup>th</sup>*

President Gene Bay will meet with the neighbors, and discuss the school's history, current events and future plans. The event will conclude with a campus tour. Light refreshments will be served.

#### **Did you know that vintage Lilac Letters are available on line?**

Please visit [www.NBNSector6.org](http://www.NBNSector6.org) and click on the Lilac Neighbors on the Home Page. There is a wealth of information on the NBN Sector 6 calendar about events happening in Southeast Rochester. You may even see a face or two whom you know!

# Mount Hope Cemetery Receives Wildlife Certification

By Sue O'Neil, Azalea Neighborhood leader and board member of Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery.  
These articles first appeared in The Azalea View.

If you've ever strolled through Mount Hope Cemetery, you've probably encountered some of its abundant wildlife. Besides squirrels, chipmunks and groundhogs, there are also deer, red foxes, several types of amphibians, and dozens of bird species. The cemetery is a vibrant wildlife habitat, and now has certification that acknowledges this fact.

This past October Mount Hope Cemetery was awarded "Certified Wildlife Habitat" status by the National Wildlife Federation. In order to earn this recognition, several criteria had to be met.

First, food must be available for wildlife. Mount Hope Cemetery has many plants providing a wide assortment of seeds, berries and fruits that many different animals enjoy throughout the year. In addition, pollen and nectar attract bees, hummingbirds and butterflies.

Another essential component is water. Sylvan Waters, a geologic formation called a kettle, is the cemetery's largest source. Many animals and birds can be seen drinking there, and it is also a favorite swimming spot for ducks. In the summer you can find birds splashing in the Florentine fountain and throughout the cemetery there are several shallow bowl-shaped monuments which catch rain and serve as additional water sources for butterflies and birds.

The next requirement is shelter, and Mount Hope Cemetery offers quite a variety. Thousands of trees, patches of dense shrubs, rock piles, burrows, and ground covers are ideal places for wildlife to live and raise their young. Also, volunteers manage over 20 bluebird houses and nesting boxes for owls.

Besides providing these three essentials, a Certified Wildlife Habitat must demonstrate sustainable gardening practices. The Friends of Mount Hope Gardening Committee and Adopt-a-Plot volunteers conserve natural resources by choosing drought-resistant plants which require less watering and by using mulch, which has the dual benefit of retaining water and suppressing weeds. Projects such as hillside rock gardens and bank stabilization prevent soil erosion, and the annual fall leaf clean-up yields plenty of nutrient-rich compost for the garden beds.

With its rich history, artistic monuments, and a beautiful landscape, Mount Hope Cemetery has so much to admire. The next time you're in Mount Hope, take the time to appreciate some of the often overlooked treasures: a rock pile here, a shrub laden with berries there. The wildlife certainly does.

## Help Count Birds at Mount Hope Cemetery



The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery are planning to do a bird inventory. If you enjoy watching birds, please consider volunteering. Anyone interested should contact Marilyn Nolte by leaving a message through the Friends web site ( [www.fomh.org](http://www.fomh.org) ) or a phone message at 461-3494.

## Mount Hope Cemetery Tours

Tours of historic Mount Hope Cemetery are given every Saturday and Sunday from May through October. Saturday tours begin at 1:00 PM. Sunday tours begin at 2:00 and 2:30 PM. The free tours begin at the North Gate House (opposite Robinson Drive). In addition, there will be several Theme Tours and Thursday Twilight Tours offered throughout the season. These tours are \$4.00 / person, free for FOMH members. For a complete schedule of tours, visit [www.fomh.org](http://www.fomh.org) or call 461-3494.

# **Lilac Festival 2009: Parking, Traffic, Events Update**

**These special parking regulations will start being installed on April 27, 2009 and will be removed starting Monday May 18, 2009**

**May 8 Through May 17, 2009**

## **Special Parking Restrictions on the Following Streets**

Reservoir Avenue – ALLOW Parking on the North side, South Ave. to Mt. Hope.

Highland Avenue – No Parking 6 AM to 9 PM on the North side, South Ave. to Mt. Hope Ave.

Highland Avenue – No Parking on the North side, South Goodman to South Avenue.

## **Alternate Parking to be Removed and Parking on the Southside**

Furman Crescent between Highland and Mt. Hope Avenues. Road Closed (Local Traffic Only)

### **Some local roads may be closed for the following:**

Saturday May 9	10:30 a.m.	Lilac Parade
Sunday May 17	8:00 a.m.	5K Lilac Race
Sunday May 17	9:00 a.m.	10K Lilac Race

There will be paid concerts on Saturday May 9 and Sunday May 10 in Highland Bowl. The Bowl will be fenced for these events. Alcohol will be served. Music will end by 8:30 p.m. The promoter is expecting to sell “a couple of thousand” tickets for each Bowl concert. Parking for the concerts will be off-site. Additional concerts will be held on May 9 and 10 at the Main Stage at Highland and South Avenue.

Please remember that **Parking is Prohibited:**

- ~ On lawns
- ~ Within 5 feet of a driveway
- ~ Blocking the sidewalk
- ~ Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant

If you experience Festival-related problems, the phone number for the Police Command Center at the Festival Site is 442-0755.

## **Rochester Clean Sweep in the Lilac / May Street Neighborhoods – Saturday May 2, 2009**

Several Lilac and May Street neighbors plan to work on the tree lawns along Mt. Hope Ave. between May St. and Reservoir Ave. If you would like to join in the fun, please call the Lindbergs at 244-1217 or Geri Machado at 461-1172. Geri is our team captain. She will pick up the Clean Sweep tee shirts and supplies for us. Please bring tools such as rakes, brooms, gardening gloves, etc. Join other volunteers for lunch at Cobbs Hill Park at noon.

The Community Foundation has awarded the Lilac Neighbors an \$800 NeighborGood Grant for 2009 – 2010 to support The Lilac Letter and the Community Harvest Suppers. Thank you Community Foundation for believing and investing in our neighborhood!

# Save the Date! Start Digging! Annual Lilac Neighbors' Plant Sale

61 Reservoir Ave.

Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

8 am till all plants are sold (usually 11:00 am).

**This is the Lilac Neighbors' annual fundraiser.**



If you have perennial plants that need dividing, please donate your surplus. If pots or trays are cluttering your garage, recycle them to 32 Highland. We need people to donate, buy, and sell plants. Please label your donations! Thanks to Pat Brogan and Geri Machado, we have a great inventory of canna and hosta. Any questions, call the Lindberg's at 244-1217.

**And don't forget to visit the Proud Market on the meadow in front of the Castle for more great plants.**

## Stimulus Package Comes to East Henrietta Road

East Henrietta Road, from South Avenue to Mt. Hope Avenue, has been designated as a project eligible for funding under the American Recovery and Reconstruction Act (aka: Federal Stimulus funding). The roadway is scheduled for reconstruction. Design features include new curbs, driveway aprons and street lighting, replacement of sidewalks, water mains and catch basins, topsoil and seeding. At a recent meeting in the Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood, the project was met with overwhelming support.

Paul Way of the City's Bureau of Architecture and Engineering explained that road construction will begin in August or September 2009. Two-way traffic will be maintained during the 2009 portion of the project. In 2010, during the final phase of the project, southbound traffic on East Henrietta Road (by McDonald's) will have a detour. The project will be completed by June 2010.

## Ribbons for RPD Officer Anthony DiPonzio

Blue and gold ribbons are being sold on behalf of the Rochester Police Department to benefit and show support for Officer Anthony DiPonzio and his family. The Minimum donation is \$1. If you would like to purchase ribbons, please contact Sue O'Neil at [theazaleaview@yahoo.com](mailto:theazaleaview@yahoo.com) or call Sue at 442-8586.

## Spring in the Lilac Neighborhood

In addition to tulips and daffodils, "For Sale" signs are sprouting up around the neighborhood. Dr. Matt Rechtenwald of Highland Avenue has moved back to California to practice Emergency Room medicine. Nick Ruth and Nissa Youngren with their children Silas and Sasha are moving to a bigger house in the City. Nick Micklos of Highland Ave. is moving on to the next chapter in his career. We wish all the best for these good people. Godspeed.

If you know of good folks who would like to join the Lilac community, don't be shy. Let folks know that this is a great neighborhood.