



The Lilac Letter

Summer 2008



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 Community Foundation.

Lilac Neighbors Night Out Against Crime Ice Cream Social Thursday August 7, 2008 At Our South Avenue Fire House 7 - 8:30 pm



Mark your calendars for the tenth annual ice cream social.

Feast on the profits of the plant sale. Visit with neighbors. Meet your police officers and fire fighters.

Thanks go to RFD Captain Russ Merritt for hosting us again this year.

If you would like to sign up for a 20 minute scooping shift, please call the Lindbergs at 244-1217.

Lilac Neighbors (and Azalea Neighbors) Garage Sales Saturday July 19, 2008

Be there or be square.

Questions? Call Victoria Posner at 271-3495.

Plant Sale '08 - By the Numbers

Thanks to all the folks who helped make the Lilac Neighbors plant sale such a success. Neighbors donated pots and plants. Neighbors bought and sold. We had a huge donation of Lenten roses from a Brighton friend, MaryJo Hausle. Geri and Joe Machado from the May Street Block Club helped to set up. Charlie Westfall's flowers brightened up the table. As usual, the Swillburg Neighborhood Association placed a big order for daylilies, which are now blooming in their Pembroke Street garden. Once again, Bob Schnacky donated his prime Reservoir Avenue real estate. Thanks!

This year, prices increased to \$2 per plant, or 3 plants for \$5. **The grand total was \$561!** More importantly, 36 neighbors and friends joined together for a successful community event. Extra plants were donated to the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery and to LifeSpan's plant exchange.

Movies in the Bowl
Movies begin Thursday evenings at dusk.

July 10	Shrek the Third (2007)
July 17	Alvin & the Chipmunks (2007)
July 24	The Polar Express (2004)
July 31	Bee Movie (2007)
August 7	Horton Hears a Who! (2008)
August 14	Harry Potter & the Order of the Phoenix (2007)

Cinema at Sunset in the Bowl
Movies begin at 7:30 pm. Bad weather screenings
will move to the Dryden Theater.

Tuesday Aug. 26	2001: A Space Odyssey
Wednesday Aug. 27	Manhattan
Thursday Aug. 28	North By Northwest
Friday Aug 29	American Graffiti
Saturday Aug. 30	Bride of Frankenstein & The Black Cat

The Swillburg Neighborhood Association

*Cordially invites you to Otto Henderberg Park On Wednesday July 30 for a
Performance by the RPO Brass Ensemble at 7 pm*

And

On Thursday July 31 for the
Neighborhood Night Out Against Crime and Swillburg Carnival

Free activities for the kids – Live performances – Food!

Event starts at 5:30 pm.

Otto Henderberg Park is at the end of Fountain St., off S. Clinton Avenue.



Onward and Upward -- Congratulations to our Graduates!

Joanna Hagan (Highland) from Monroe Community College
Dan Lindberg (Highland) from McQuaid Jesuit High School
Frank Gerham (Highland) from McQuaid Jesuit High School
Ava Labuzetta (Reservoir) from Our Lady of Mercy High School
Mike Labuzetta (Reservoir) from Boston University
Joel Labuzetta (Reservoir) from College of Charleston
Evan Labuzetta (Reservoir) PhD from Cambridge England
Philip Zenkel (Reservoir) from Rochester Institute of Technology
Tim Gerham (Highland) from Siena Catholic Academy
Grace Rieck (Castle Park) from Our Lady of Mercy Middle School



Southeast Fall Softball

Gary Gustafson, team manager of the Reservoir Dogs, is recruiting players for our softball team. The league is coed. Players over 15 years of age are welcome to participate. Games are played at Marie Daley Park in the South Wedge or at the Field Street Playground adjacent to School #35. The season goes from August until the end of September. A sense of humor is more important than softball skills. This is a great way to meet people and to build a sense of community. In the past, Plant Sale funds have helped support our Reservoir Dogs team. Interested? Call Gary at 442-0466. He will sign you up, show you our trophies, and schedule practices.

People and Places in the News

Welcome to our youngest Lilac Neighbor, **Lilly Pauline Conner (Furman)**. Lisa and Jim Conner became proud parents in early April. Lilly's teenage brothers think she's pretty special too. Say hello to Lilly when you see Lisa pushing her baby carriage through the neighborhood. *=*

Meghan McKeever and Mike Anderson (Pavilion) moved back to Seattle. Neighbors said farewell to Mike, Meg, baby Simon and Abby the Labby. The McKeever and Anderson Families, both of whom call Seattle home, were a strong magnet pulling our neighbors back to the west coast. We wish Dr. Meg good luck in her new OB/GYN practice. Hopefully Mike will find a softball team as special as the Reservoir Dogs. *=* Welcome **Alex and Brandon Hoffmeister** to Highland Avenue. It's an easy commute from the Lilac Neighborhood to the Harley Davidson dealership on West Henrietta Road where they both work. Brandon grew up in Western NY, and Alex is from Florida. Let's hope we have a mild winter. *=*

Sr. Therese Richardson and Sr. Jody Kearney (Highland) are moving east to Pittsford, NY. However, they will not be abandoning the Lilac Neighborhood completely. Sr. Jody will continue her work as Program Director at the Mercy Prayer Center. Sr. Therese, although newly "retired" from the Mercy Prayer Center, will continue to volunteer as a spiritual director. Is it possible to flunk retirement? We're glad to have Therese and Jody as commuters. *=* We welcome Sr. Laurie Ormon to the neighborhood and to the Mercy Prayer Center. Sr. Laurie is the newly appointed Hospitality Minister at the prayer center. *=*

After 23 years as a Rochester Police Officer, **Lt. Frank Churnetski** retired on June 22. Frank helped many neighbors resolve problems through his work at the NET Office. Thank you, Lieutenant, for your dedicated service at NET. Good luck in your next career. *=*

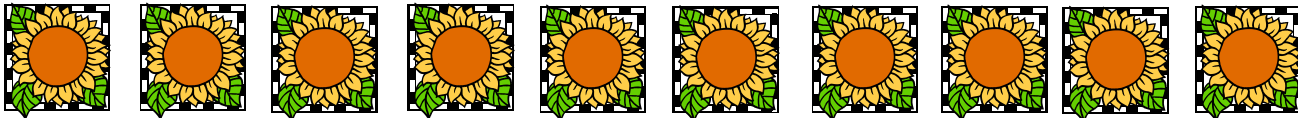
Dear **Ed and Arlene Bizari**, Thank you for taking down the "FOR SALE" sign in front of your **Highland Avenue** house. We are delighted that you decided to stay. *=*

Welcome to **Amie Gilliland**, a new **Highland Avenue** resident. Amie has a short commute to Strong Hospital where she is a nurse in the coronary intensive care unit. A native of Cortland, NY, Amie is looking for a place to buy homemade ice cream in Rochester. *=*

Sampson and Hercules have taken up residence on Mt. Hope Avenue. The four month old blue heeler / cocker spaniel puppies take Alan and Janice Smith for frequent walks. This breed is particularly suited for herding cattle out west. Hmm. *=*

Grace Rieck (Castle Park) will perform with the International PeaceChild organization in a musical about global warming. Performances will be at Nazareth High School Auditorium on Aug. 7 at 8 pm and Aug. 8th at 2 pm. Is this "An Inconvenient Truth: the Musical"? *=*

Keep an eye on the southwest corner of Highland and Goodman. The sunflowers were knee high by the 4th of July. Imagine what September will bring! Break open your Van Gogh oils and paint away. *=*



What do you do with decapitated parking meters?

If you are a member of the Business Association of the South Wedge Area (BASWA), you apply for an arts grant, you solicit original artwork, and then you commission the best of the lot. On June 19th, eight "totems" were unveiled on South Avenue around Gregory St. The artists were on hand to talk about what inspired them, what materials they used, and how their original concept changed as idea became reality. Take a walk along South Avenue and see some whimsical, beautiful, creative street art. Bravo!

NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

- July 9, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19** **As You Like It. Shakespeare in the Bowl.** 8 pm. Free.
- Wed. July 9** **From Your Own Garden – Arrangement Workshop.** Rochester Civic Garden Center. Call 473-5130 to register. 7 – 9 pm. Fee.
- Sat. July 12** **Rochester Civic Garden Center Annual Garden Tour: City Gardens – Large and Small.** 10 am – 4 pm. Visit eleven gardens in Southeast Rochester. Advance sale \$15; others \$20. Call 473-5130 for tickets. \$20 tickets available at Wegman's.
- Sat. July 19** **Lilac and Azalea Neighbors Garage Sales.**
- Sun. July 27** **Plant Sale.** Cornell Cooperative Extension 10 am – 2 pm. Various plant groups and societies.
- Thurs. Aug 7** **Oh No, Now What? – Creative Perennial Garden Maintenance.** Rochester Civic Garden Center. 6 – 8:30 pm. Call 473-5130 to register. Fee.
- Thurs. Aug 7** **Lilac Neighbors Night Out Against Crime & ICE CREAM SOCIAL.** Fire House at South and Pavilion. 7 – 8:30 pm.
- Sun. Aug. 10** **Rochester Omnium Road Race.** This international bicycle competition will race through Rochester streets and end at Genesee Valley Park. Some City streets will be closed from 2:30 to 3:45 pm. See article below.
- Mon. Aug. 11** **Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Sector 6.** Monthly meeting. Come and help to plan the future of our neighborhoods. Parks Office. 171 Reservoir Ave. 5:30 – 7 pm. Light refreshments.
- Wed. Aug. 13** **New Life for Your Silk Arrangement.** Hands on workshop. Rochester Civic Garden Center. Call 473-5130 to register. Fee.
- Wed. Aug. 27** **Using Seed of Native Trees and Shrubs.** Walking Tour of Highland Park. Lecture. Rochester Civic Garden Center. 6 – 8 pm. Call 473-5130 to register. Fee.

Rochester Omnium Bike Races

Rochester will host a three day international bike racing event from August 8 to August 10. New this year is a 100 mile road race that will end here in the southeast part of the City of Rochester. On Sunday August 10, road racers will begin their route in the Town of Honeyoe, and then meander through the Finger Lakes countryside before heading north. The last 12 miles will consist of two laps that encompass southeast Rochester neighborhoods. The racers will travel along Wilson Blvd., Intercampus Drive, McLean St, Robinson Drive, Alpine, Mt. Vernon, Bellvue, S. Goodman, Elmwood and E. River Road. Pick your spot along this route between 2:30 – 4:45 pm on August 10 to see some incredible racing.



Both the **South Avenue Firehouse** and **The Lamberton Conservatory** are nearing their 100th birthdays. Both are undergoing major rehabilitation. The Conservatory reconstruction should be complete by November 2008. The firehouse will have its floor reinforced to accommodate two large rigs, in addition to other upgrades. Work on the firehouse should be complete in 2009. We are pleased that these local landmarks are receiving good care, and that they will be around to serve us for years to come.

Erie-Lackawanna Railroad Bridge Conversion

A new link in Rochester's Trail System will connect the southeast and southwest sides of Rochester. The historic Erie-Lackawanna Railroad Bridge still straddles the Genesee River but has been unused for many years. Since June 2007, interested Rochester residents have come together to comment on the bridge's new use as part of the trail system. Listed among the design objectives are: maintain user safety, provide connections between neighborhoods, enhance and protect existing resources, maintain potential for future alternative transportation systems, create a trail that is easily maintained, utilize sustainable materials, and develop the bridge as a landmark destination along the trail network.

The bridge's roadbed needs to be replaced. Handicapped accessibility to the trail is build into the new design. Bridge rehabilitation will cost approximately \$1.25 million. Environmental Design and Research (EDR) will present a final report on the project to the City of Rochester in July 2008.