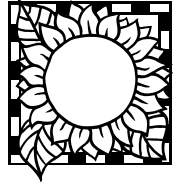


# *The Lilac Letter*

## *Summer 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 Community Foundation.**

### **Fire House Update by Captain Russ Merrick, RFD**

As everyone in our neighborhood is aware the fire station is getting a new facelift for its 100 year-old birthday. Since mid-April the firefighters assigned to the South Avenue station have been responding to incidents from the fire station on Monroe Avenue. However, we plan on reopening our door and moving back into our own station again around the first week in August.

Some of the new features you can expect to see once we reopen will be an enlarged kitchen area, individual dormitories for members that will enhance and accommodate the gender issues facing the fire service, a training class room which we never had before, modern lock room, workout facility and showers, and a new lounge area with enough space to accommodate all our members.

As many have noticed along the North side of the station some of our trees were removed so a generator can be installed to power the building and our equipment should there be a power outage in the area. Currently this is not a pleasant sight; however, once the equipment is installed there will be a fence placed around it. The plans are to have some shrubbery (lilac trees) added to enhance the cosmetics along this side of the building, which will make it much nicer than it currently is.

Additionally, we hope our neighbors will stop by and welcome us back home. We would love to show you around our quarters, as we are very excited and cannot wait to get back in our own, newly renovated fire station once again.

*The Lilac, Azalea and May Street Neighborhood Associations  
cordially invite you to an  
Ice Cream Social  
At the Warner Castle  
5 Castle Park (off Reservoir)  
Tuesday August 11, 2009 from 7 to 8:30 pm.*

Come meet your neighbors,  
Enjoy the beautiful gardens,  
And savor some wonderful ice cream.  
We will need volunteer ice cream scoopers.  
Please call the Lindberg's (244-1217) to sign up for a 20 minute shift.



# Azalea and Lilac Neighbors Storm the Hill: A Field Trip to the Divinity School

By Sue O'Neil, Azalea Neighborhood Association  
and Joan Lindberg, Lilac Neighbors

## **HISTORY**

On Tuesday, April 21, two dozen Azalea and Lilac neighbors accepted the invitation of President Gene Bay for a tour and reception of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Dr. Bay told us about the school's history starting with its founding in 1817 in Hamilton, NY as Colgate Theological Seminary. Then it moved to downtown Rochester in 1850, the same year the University of Rochester was established, and finally to its current 22-acre location. We were interested to learn that in the 1920's two seminaries in Rochester approached John D. Rockefeller, Jr. for money to build new campuses. Mr. Rockefeller said he would provide funding if the two schools merged, and so Colgate Rochester Seminary was created. The campus was completed in 1930. Women were first admitted in the 1960's, and in 1971 the campus welcomed Crozer Seminary from Pennsylvania to the Hill. The most famous among The Divinity School's distinguished graduates is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Today CRCDS is a very rich theological environment, with over 20 denominations represented, from liberal to conservative. There are 130-140 students in the three degree programs, and there is also a certificate program designed for laypersons. Women comprise 60% of the student population; 60% commute from as far away as Syracuse, Buffalo, and Binghamton. To accommodate the schedules of present-day students, whose average age is 40, the school is open only three days a week, from Tuesday through Thursday.

## **PARTNERSHIPS**

When the Physical and Occupational Therapy program of Ithaca College needed a new home in 2006, the first floor of the Divinity School was a perfect match. Currently 60-70 students attend classes, learn practical skills, and collaborate with Divinity students making the link between health and spirituality. CRCDS also has a partnership with Andover Newton (Massachusetts) and Bangor (Maine) Theological seminaries. Students across the three campuses can attend the same class via videoconferencing. The newest partnership is with the American Cancer Society. An unused dorm will be renovated into 35 hotel-style rooms to accommodate cancer and transplant patients and their families, as well as ACS offices. The exterior will remain unchanged. The Golisano Foundation has pledged \$4 million towards the project. The ACS has raised the remaining \$3 million. The school offers a larger community to the patients and their families who will have access to the chapel, library and cafeteria. In turn, the students have the opportunity to learn about and offer Pastoral Care.

Tom McDade Clay, Director of Development, led our tour. We visited the Ithaca College OT lab, classrooms, the refectory, the library, the chapel and the bell tower. We even got to ring the bells!

## **INVITATION**

President Bay invited neighbors to discover for themselves "Rochester's Best Kept Secret." Visit or audit a class, attend a lecture, study in the library, attend a service, or have lunch in the Refectory. Find a schedule of hours, classes and events at [www.CRCDS.edu](http://www.CRCDS.edu) or call 340-9500.



# Neighborhood calendar



- Mon. July 13** **Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Sector 6.** Monthly Meeting. Help plan the future of Rochester's southeast neighborhoods. 5:30 – 7 pm. 171 Reservoir Avenue. Light refreshments.
- Tues. July 14** **“Trees in Our Neighborhood” Walk.** Meet at the Westside steps of UR Rush Rhees Library. Explore the U of R Arboretum with noted horticulturist, Dan Scheid. 6 pm. Free.
- Thurs. July 16** **South Wedge Stimulus Stroll.** South Avenue. Music, food, and bargains. Shop Local! 4 – 8 pm.
- Thurs. July 16** **RPO String Ensemble Concert.** Otto Henderberg Park in Swillburg. Fountain St. off S. Clinton Avenue. 6 pm. Free. Refreshments for sale.
- Sat. July 18** **Mt. Hope Cemetery Tour: East Avenue.** Meet at North Gate House opposite Robinson Drive. 11:00 a.m. Free.
- Tues. July 21** **Creativity in Times of Crisis.** Mercy Prayer Center. 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Call 473-6893 to register. \$25.
- Wed. July 22** **Creativity in Times of Crisis.** Dr. Nancy Hawkins. Mercy Prayer Center. 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Call 473-6893 to register. \$25.
- Wed. July 22** **Advanced Floral Design Workshop – Pave.** Rochester Civic Garden Center. 7 – 9 pm. Call 473-5130 to register. Bring tools. Materials provided. Fee.
- Thurs. July 23** **Creativity in Times of Crisis.** James Krisher. Mercy Prayer Center. 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Call 473-6893 to register. \$25.
- Sun. July 26** **Recycling Garden Treasures: Master Gardeners Garage Sale:** Cornell Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Avenue. Hosta, perennials, iris, tools, and garden objects. 10 am – 2 pm.
- Tues. July 28** **Guided Outrigger Canoe Paddle.** Genesee Valley Park. Waterways Center 149 Elmwood Dr. 6 pm. Pre-register by 7/24 by calling 311. \$15 per person.
- Sat. Aug. 1** **Mt. Hope Cemetery Tour: The Civil War.** Meet at North Gate House opposite Robinson Drive. 11:00 a.m. Free.
- Wed. Aug. 5** **Rose Bower.** Hands on class. Rochester Civic Garden Center. 7 – 9 pm. Call 473-5130 to pre-register. Materials provided. Fee.
- Thurs. Aug. 6** **Meditating in the Garden for Stress Relief.** Guided meditation. Rochester Civic Garden Center. 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Call 473-5130 to pre-register. Fee.
- Sat. Aug. 8** **Mt. Hope Cemetery Tour: The Revolutionary War.** Meet at North Gate House opposite Robinson Drive. 11:00 a.m. Free.
- Mon. Aug. 10** **Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Sector 6.** Monthly Meeting. Help plan the future of Rochester's southeast neighborhoods. 5:30 – 7 pm. 171 Reservoir Avenue. Light refreshments.
- Tues. Aug. 11** **Guided Outrigger Canoe Paddle.** Genesee Valley Park. Waterways Center 149 Elmwood Dr. Pre-register by 8/7 by calling 311. \$15 per person.
- Wed. Aug 12** **PCIC (Police and Citizens Interaction Committee).** Monthly meeting. East Command Center. 630 North Clinton Ave. 5:30 -7 pm. All welcome.
- Sat. Aug. 15** **Mt. Hope Cemetery Ice Cream Tour.** A celebration of 200 years of ice cream, highlighting Rochester's own history of ice cream. Free ice cream served after the tour. Meet at Cemetery Office (opposite Distillery). 1:30 pm.
- Tues. Aug. 18** **Guided Bike Ride. Mount Hope Cemetery.** Meet at Genesee Valley Park pool parking lot, 131 Elmwood Ave. 6 pm. Free.
- Thurs. Aug. 20** **South Wedge Stimulus Stroll.** South Avenue. Music, food, and bargains. Shop Local! 4 – 8 pm.



**The South Wedge Farmers' Market - EVERY THURSDAY - 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., corner of S. Clinton and Alexander, behind Boulder Coffee. Don't miss one of Rochester's best events each week:**

**FOOD, FRIENDS, MUSIC, and MERRIMENT!**

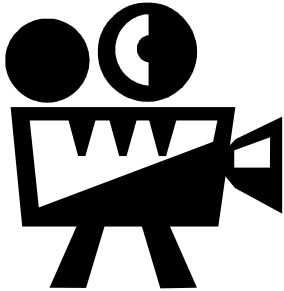


## ***Tuesdays in the Park with Music***

Visit the Otto Henderberg Park in Swillburg every Tuesday evening in August. Bring a lawn chair and a picnic dinner. Settle back and enjoy the music of a local band. These events are free, thanks to the generosity of the Swillburg Neighborhood Association. Music begins at 6 pm. The Otto Henderberg Park is located at the end of Fountain St., off S. Clinton Avenue.



## Highland Park Summer 2009 Events



### Thursday Movies in the Bowl – Free!

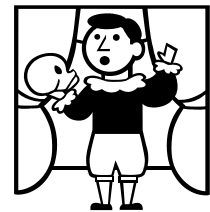
July 9    Madagascar 2 - G  
July 16    Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone - PG  
July 23    A Christmas Story - PG  
July 30    Hotel for Dogs - PG  
Aug 6     The Goonies - PG  
Aug 13    Kung Fu Panda – PG  
Movies begin at dusk – usually 8:30 p.m.

### Shakespeare in the Bowl – Free!

The Rochester Community Players present

#### *Hamlet*

July 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 18.  
All performances begin at 8 p.m.



### Big Rib BBQ and Blues Fest

Highland Park South

Thursday July 9    11:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Friday July 10    11:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
Saturday July 11    11:30 a.m. – 10 p.m.  
Sunday July 12    noon – 8 p.m.

Lunchtime admission is FREE on Thursday, Friday and Saturday until 4 p.m., and on Sunday until 3 p.m. Dinnertime admission is \$5 per person and there is no charge for children under 12 years of age. On-site parking will be available throughout the festival at Highland Park for a \$5 fee. Visit [www.MyBigRib.com](http://www.MyBigRib.com) or call (585) 473-4482 for more information.

### Big City Summer Fest - Highland Bowl Concert Series

Bob Wier and Rat Dog on Sunday July 12. Tickets \$35 / \$40. Gates open at 4:30 p.m.  
Tragically Hip on Saturday July 25. Tickets \$35 /\$40. Gates open at 6 p.m.

### Clean Sweep – May 2, 2009

To our Lilac Neighbors,

We are fortunate to live in such a beautiful and horticulturally significant part of the city.

Several Lilac and May Street neighbors participated in Clean Sweep this year by raking and picking up trash in the tree lawn between the sidewalk and the curb in our area. While the city has an easement in this space, it is up to the individual residents to care for it.

House and yard maintenance speak volumes about the quality of a neighborhood. Let's all try to keep our area looking its best.

Happy Summer!

Pat Brogan (Pavilion)

## 2009 Lilac Neighbors Plant Sale - By the Numbers

Over 60 neighbors participated in the Lilac Neighbors Plant Sale on May 23 at the Schnacky Estate on Reservoir Avenue. This year we had a bumper crop of canna, hosta and ferns. Pat Brogan donated 52 canna bulbs in the fall of 2008. Joan Lindberg converted her son Dave's bedroom into a greenhouse and started growing canna on St. Patrick's Day. Geri and Joe Machado donated a huge number of hosta in the summer of 2008, and another bushel of ostrich ferns this spring. The Lindberg's have been dividing hosta and potting them up since the Mercy Prayer Center announced its Parable of the Talents fundraiser last year.



The Lilac Neighbors are \$555 richer as a result of this year's plant sale.

The "Holy Hosta!" initiative netted an additional \$170 for the Mercy Prayer Center.

Thanks to everyone who donated pots, plants, time, talent, muscle, and encouragement to make the sale another great success. Thanks to Bob Schnacky who hosts us every year. Thanks to all of you who stopped by to visit and snack on apple pie. Neighbors from the South Wedge, May Street, the Azalea Neighborhood, the Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood, Highland Park Neighborhood, Swillburg, and the 19<sup>th</sup> Ward came out and supported our community.

The unsold plants were donated to the Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery and to Mark's Park, a community garden on Westmoreland Ave. in the Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood. It's all good.

### People and Places in the News

Congratulations to **Sister Margaret Deegan** who celebrates her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Sister of Mercy this year. Sr. Margie lives at the Mercy Prayer Center on **Highland Avenue** and is a great Lilac Neighbor. ... A recent issue of The Wedge recognized the gardening skills of **Carol and Paul Gardner of Reservoir Avenue**. Their Garden was named a Garden of Distinction. Part of the newspaper article said, "Head for the backyard, and you'll discover an enchanted water-filled garden that seems far away from city life." But even Gardens of Distinction can suffer setbacks. Carol said, "We had two large koi. One day they disappeared." Carol is still not sure where they went or who (ate?) them. ... Better late than never. In May, **Howard Kingsley (Furman)** received five medals of honor for his service in the Air Force during World War II. Howard completed his military service 64 years ago! U.S. Representative Louise Slaughter presented the medals to Howard, who proudly wore his Air Force uniform for the ceremony. We are proud of you, Howard. ... Some long-time residents of the Lilac neighborhood will be leaving us soon. **Mary Wells (Furman)** will move to Texas in mid-July to join her husband Steve. Good luck and best wishes in the Lone Star State. ... The **Gustafson Family (Sue, Gary, Xenia and Kaia)** will be leaving their **Reservoir Avenue** home for Brighton before the end of the year. We will miss their smiling faces. Good luck to Xenia and Kaia in the Brighton Schools. ... Best of luck to **Luul Mungani and Omar Hasson** and their family who will be leaving **Highland Avenue** to become first time home owners in Rochester. ... The next time you are on South Avenue near Alexander Street, check out the new series of artistic bike racks. It's street art that blends form, fun and function. ... **Laura Rich (Reservoir)** recently performed in the ballet "Hansel and Gretel" at Roberts Wesleyan College. A member of the Odasz Dance Theater, Laura also performed two award-winning solo pieces. We are so proud of you, Laura! ... **Grace Rieck (Castle Park)** was a featured solo vocalist in Mercy High School's spring production of "Godspell." Grace will be a sophomore in the fall, so she has three more years to shine in Mercy productions. Congratulations, Grace.

### Congratulations to our Graduates.

**Libby Gerham (Highland)** graduated from Mercy High School. She's off to Loyola College in Maryland.

**Daniel Hagan (Highland)** graduated from Rochester's School Without Walls. Daniel is off to China for a year!

**Joy Hagan (Highland)** graduated from SUNY Brockport. Next up for Joy is dental school.

**Christie Hillenbrand** graduated from SUNY Oswego and will spend a year as an Americorp Vista volunteer.

**Dave Lindberg (Highland)** graduated from Canisius College in Buffalo. After a break, it's graduate school.

**St. Anne Church**, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave., is having a "**Next-to-New Sale**" on Aug 20-21 (9-6) and 22 (9-3) to benefit their Building Fund. Items for sale include clothes, toys, jewelry, crafts, linens, small appliances and electronics, china, glassware, holiday items, etc.

# Rochester Police Department Community Alerts

## May 13, 2009

It has come to the attention of your crime prevention Officer that there has been an increase in the number of "Bottle Collectors" in your neighborhood. This increase is likely due to neighborhood residents leaving returnable cans and bottles out in the open or in recycle bins for these "bottle collectors" to pick u.

While I'm certain that this is done with the best of intentions, it is very common for "bottle collectos" to commit crimes of opportunity such as burglary or larceny while entering premises where persons are not at home with the intention of collecting returnables. Furthermore, some habitual burglars use the guise of "bottle collector" to conduct surveillance on their potential targets.

Because of these risk factors involved with attracting "bottle collectors" to your neighborhood, I recommend that you do not leave bottles or cans out in the open where they may attract these individuals.

In addition, the East Division Crime Prevention Unit would like to remind all residents to follow these basic tips to deter crime:

- ~ Report to 911 immediately all suspicious activity such as persons loitering, going door to door, or the sound of glass breaking.
- ~ Report any attempt to break into your house such as cuts in your screens near the locks.
- ~ Keep your doors and windows locked when not at home.
- ~ Notify a neighbor when you go on vacation.
- ~ Discontinue newspaper delivery when you go on vacation.
- ~ Trim shrubs to deny burglars a hiding place, especially shrubs around windows.
- ~ Lock up ladders where they cannot be used by a burglar.

**Be a good neighbor. Watch your neighbors' property.**

## May 22, 2009

The Rochester Police Department is investigating daytime residential burglaries in the Highland Ave., Mt. Hope Ave. and Elmwood Ave. area. All cases have involved access to unlocked homes. We request that you:

- ~ Be sure to keep your house and garage secure by locking them.
- ~ Please report suspicious activity to the police department by calling 911.
- ~ Communicate with your neighbors if you plan to be away from your house for an extended period of time.
- ~ Please report any information regarding these crimes to the Rochester Police Department by calling 911.
- ~ Consider patrolling your own neighborhood by joining our PAC TAC (Police And Citizens Together Against Crime) by calling the South East NSC office at 428-7640.

## June 2, 2009

Thefts from parked vehicles continue to be a concern for the citizens of South East Rochester. These all too common property crimes can occur at any time of the day or night, in busy well-lit parking lots as well as on dark residential streets. Perpetrators will target a vehicle that may contain any item of value or interest to him.

By and large, these are crimes of opportunity committed by individuals moving quickly through a neighborhood. These criminals may be alone or in pairs, on foot or in vehicles. By taking the following precautions you can decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim:

### **~ Remove all valuables from your car and lock the doors.**

If you wouldn't leave it on your front lawn at night don't leave it in your car! Valuable looking items such as purses, laptops, and GPS units are obviously desired by thieves. Some less obvious items that may attract a criminal include loose change, sports equipment and items of clothing. Don't forget the mounting brackets and power cords to your GPS or satellite radio. Leaving these behind just tells the bad guy to look in your glove box.

### **~ Install a car alarm (real or otherwise).**

Auto alarms are so commonplace today that many of us may not pay attention to those easily recognizable audible sirens. However it is still likely to scare off a nervous amateur crook. That flashing red light on your dashboard may also make him think twice.

### **~ Park in well lit, populated areas whenever possible.**

Thieves don't want any witnesses, we do.

### **~ Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood.**

Nobody knows your neighborhood better than you do. Call 911 if you see anything or anybody that does not seem to belong. Pay attention to unfamiliar vehicles lingering around your neighborhood.

Write down the license plate for later reference, just in case.

**Trust your instincts. If it feels wrong, it probably is.**

**RPD Crime Prevention Officer Brian Bannerman, 846 S. Clinton, 585-428-7647, BB0507@cityofrochester.gov**