

NBN Meeting March 9, 2009  
Monroe County Parks Dept Office  
171 Reservoir Ave

Community Sharing:

*Matt Perdue, ESCAPE Committee:* Good news! Funding is available for S. Clinton improvements -- coming from Federal Stimulus money, the jobs must be bid by July and work is scheduled to begin this summer. Also, the "Lucky 13" neighborhood fundraiser for both Swillburg Neighborhood Association and the Highland Park Neighborhood Association is Friday March 13 at the German House. Tickets are \$15 at the door, price includes dinner, raffle prizes, juggler, magician, silent auction, and live music.

*Allan Richards, Assemblymember Susan John's Office:* There will be a meeting with SEAC (TBA) to discuss state budgetary concerns.

*RPD Officer Goater:* Crime Prevention Bulletin (distributed) regarding recent scams involving [www.craigslist.com](http://www.craigslist.com) A victim advertised an item for sale on Craigslist, and set up a meeting with the buyer in a public parking lot. The suspect was armed with a handgun and upon meeting the seller at the location, he displayed the handgun and ordered him to drive to a different location where he shot and robbed the victim. Please contact crime prevention officer Brian Bannerman at the Neighborhood Service Center for tips on staying safe when buying or selling items. He can be reached at 428-7647 or [bb0507@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:bb0507@cityofrochester.gov).

*Pete Saxe, Neighborhood Service Center Administrator:* There will be a meeting with neighbors and organizers of the Lilac Festival to discuss issues related to the Lilac Festival, TBA. The city's Graffiti team "Defacer Eraser" is currently out cleaning up the neighborhoods also (a division of the department of environmental services.) If you see graffiti please call 311 to report it. You must sign a waiver/permission slip for the city to clean graffiti on your property; you can get this waiver from the Neighborhood Service Center, call 428-7640.

*Bob Boyd, Executive Director of the South Wedge Planning Committee:* Asbestos removal has begun on River Park Commons on Mt. Hope Avenue. This should take 6-8 weeks to complete, and then the demolition should happen at the end of the summer. Additionally, Mt. Hope Avenue will undergo major reconstruction this summer; it will be scaled to two traffic lanes from Gregory to Byron with bumpouts and durotherm crosswalks. That project is projected to start soon.

*Amy Happ, University of Rochester:* The U of R is concerned about recent budget cuts proposed in the NYS Budget, particularly the health care cuts, of which the University of Rochester Medical Center will face enormous impacts as proposed. Community members will see a number of things in the news media about the health care budget.

*Joanne Balliet, Southeast Area Coalition:* SEAC has moved to a new temporary location in the Neighborworks offices at Hamilton and South Avenue (580 South Ave) after a fire did extensive damage to their S. Clinton office. As of this meeting the phones are up with the same numbers, thanks in part to the generosity of Pike and ABVI. In reference to graffiti, Dulux paint on S. Clinton will give a discount on paint being purchased to cover graffiti if you refer to SEAC when purchasing it. In reference to crime reports, SEAC will send out the crime reports to anyone who requests them.

*Barbara Case*, Rockingham residents will be meeting with city forestry department & RG&E on the 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss planned curb replacements and gas line replacements, for this they are seeking feedback.

*Ruth Danis, Highland Park Neighborhood Association*: There was a Highland Park Neighborhood Association presentation on February 24<sup>th</sup> about the area's Living History, which was very successful. Material was distributed about a March 24 meeting for parents about city schools.

*Tom McDade Clay, Colgate Divinity School*: They will be scheduling a meeting with their president and a tour of their campus soon, TBA. They are currently working on an expansion of Trevor Hall on their campus and are exploring different options in regards to parking issues with the expansion.

*Joan Lindberg, Lilac Neighbors*: The NBN Sector 6 website [www.nbnsector6.org](http://www.nbnsector6.org) is up and running and the calendar is now up to date, thanks to everyone who includes Joan on their email lists.

*Mike Tomb, Highland Park Neighborhood Association*: HPNA is collecting materials for a virtual scrapbook on their neighborhood's history. Please email any materials you might have to [highlandparkrochester@gmail.org](mailto:highlandparkrochester@gmail.org) or for more information. They also have calendars available chronicling the growth of their neighborhood.

*Marcia Zack, Highland Park Neighborhood Association*: If you are interested in training with the city of Rochester Historian on how to take oral histories, to collect information for the neighborhood history projects please go to the HPNA website [www.highlandparkrochester.org](http://www.highlandparkrochester.org)

*Chris Duerr*: South Avenue property owner who owns several properties at the corner of South Ave and Alpine Street is seeking to change the use of his properties to an office overlay district from residential in hopes of bringing in multi-use development to his properties. The plan would not demolish the existing buildings but bring mixed use to them.

*Roger Ramsay, Highland Park Neighborhood Association*: A reminder about the HPNA/Swillburg fundraiser "Lucky 13" and also – HPNA has many garden projects underway for the Clean Sweep on May 2. They are also finalizing a design for their new street banners.

*Rose O'Keefe, local author*: The new food committee needs to coordinate- where is Victoria with the plates??

*Larry Staub, Director of Monroe County Parks Dept*: There will be a ribbon cutting on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 AM to celebrate the public reopening of the Lamberton Conservatory and to kick off their spring show. Lilac Festival will be held from May 8 through 17, and the promoter of the festival has agreed to come to the meeting with neighbors organized through the Neighborhood Service Center. Ribfest will be held again at Highland Park from July 9-12 at the festival site in the Park. There is one concert booked for Highland Bowl on Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> (the Tragically Hip) and there are potentially two more that are as yet unconfirmed.

*Matt McCarthy, City of Rochester*: There is a Bureau of Recreation Town Meeting (Note: this meeting has been postponed to after July 1<sup>st</sup>).

*Carlene Woodward, NBN and Highland Park Neighborhood Association:* Raffle tickets for the scooter will also be sold at the Lucky 13 event at the German House March 13. The scooter will be raffled off at the Lilac Festival.

*David Chappius:*

- David is now running for a seat on Rochester's City Council and will be happy to answer questions anyone has about this.
- A new issue of The New Yorker (Swillburg Neighborhood's newsletter) is now out (distributed) with detailed info on neighborhood events, this information is also available at [www.swillburg.com](http://www.swillburg.com).
- NBN needs a co-chair to help Carlene with the job as David is uncertain of how long he will be able to continue with the NBN responsibilities in light of his bid for City Council seat. He hopes to remain in NBN through December but is uncertain whether that is feasible.
- David has received many positive comments from other neighborhoods about our emails and info sharing.
- City Councilman John Lightfoot has offered \$10,000 for a Health Fair to be held in the southeast quadrant. However, the health fair would need to be planned and implemented quickly to secure the funding; we believe it must be done by June. Joanne from SEAC suggests appealing to Highland Family Medicine who already had a Health Fair planned. David is not able to take a leading role in this at this time so we would need to find an active partner to implement it. Joanne and Carlene will contact Highland Family Medicine about this. Follow up to this will be given at the April NBN meeting.
- State of the Sector: 5 of us met to start planning the State of the Sector event to be held Saturday September 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30. This year's event is not about land use as last year's was, but rather about sustaining our green spaces in our sector. The event will be held in Genesee Valley Park, and will feature different greenscapes in our area- we will have field trips or tours, we will be transported by bus to minimize car use, and we will have a keynote speaker and roundtable discussion. There will be green-related vendors and displays and lunch will be served. Part of NBN's budget will be used for the State of the Sector. Additional funds will be sought. We will need to save a chunk of our NBN6 budget for this event. At the recent Consolidation Meeting held by the city it became apparent that the future of NBN is shaky. Our current NBN budget has been approved however.
- Mulch- There is some funding at SWPC to provide group mulch for area neighborhoods, more details in April.

*Lisa Reagan, Cypress Linden:* At the recent meeting at City Hall with Bureau of Zoning director Art Ientilucci, he was invited to come and address NBN Sector 6 and accepted. Not sure why he is not in attendance, but we should be offering feedback to the city about the zoning code evaluation currently in process, as NBN is the planning body. We should offer some comment on relevant issues such as parking, signage, etc.

*Chris Duerr- South Ave property owner:*

- He is seeking a zoning map amendment for office overlay on his properties at the corner of South Avenue and Alpine Street
- They are currently apartment buildings.

- The process involves site plan review and approval by city council. This is for the existing buildings only, it keeps the buildings and conforms to zoning codes but allows him to put offices or businesses into these buildings.
- At this time he has no intended buyer. There is no offer pending by Highland Hospital although Highland Hospital was the one who mentioned office spaces to him.
- Site plan approval is the next step.
- He is not planning on removing both buildings but may remove one for parking. There are currently 23 car parking spaces on the two parcels, 25 units total, and 17,900 sq ft. of space in the buildings.

Next meeting is April 13, 2009.