



Spring Newsletter

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Lorrie Lorson (Colby St)
George Lorson (Colby St)
Jim Hondorf (Harvard St)
Brooke Mayer, *Secretary* (Calumet St)
Marianne Pastecki (Calumet St)

**Please Join Us for the General
Membership Meeting
on April 29, 2010 @ 1600 East
Avenue
(Basement Conference Room)
from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)**

Hope To See You There!

Light refreshments will be served

Members Choose ABC Streets as New Name for Neighborhood Association!

by Tom Hasman, President

Rochester, NY—CHAP21 “officially” has a new name! Last summer, the board discussed a possible name change for the neighborhood association and presented the idea to the membership. Members were encouraged to weigh in and submit entries for a new name. A list was compiled by the board and final submissions for the new name were: 1) *Park-Harvard East*; 2) *Harvard-Park*; 3) *ABC Streets*; 4) *Leighton Lea*.

A fifth option was to keep the current CHAP21 name. Voting took place on December 19th at the Holiday Party, hosted by Board Treasurer **Maureen Duggan** and her husband, **Jim McIntosh**. All members, 18 and older, were allowed to vote and those that were unable to attend the party were given the option of voting via e-mail. The option to submit a new name was also a choice.

Our *Elections Inspector*, **Jim McIntosh**, noted that the polling place (*the table near his front door*) saw a steady stream of traffic throughout the evening as members cast their votes. When the table (*polls*) closed at 9:30 p.m., Jim tallied all sixty-three votes submitted. The results were as follow:

- 37 votes (approx. 59%) for ABC Streets
- 14 votes (approx. 22%) for Park-Harvard East
- 12 votes (approx. 19%) to keep existing name

A special *thank you!* to all that participated in the voting process and to Maureen & Jim for hosting the event!



This guy is at all the parties! See our website for more photo's!

ABC Streets Board meets with Officers Pete Saxe & Steve Edgett on Neighborhood Issues

Tom Hasman, President

The board had received a few emails from members regarding specific “community/quality of life issues” they had experienced in the neighborhood, such as *illegally-parked cars, noise-ordinance violations, tenant parties, handling landlords, unkempt properties, illegal third-floor apartments, etc.*

The Board held a meeting on February 11th with **Pete Saxe, Administrator of the SE Quadrant Neighborhood Service Center (NSC)** and **Crime Prevention Officer Steve Edgett** to discuss these issues.

Highlights included: *illegally-parked cars-cars on the wrong side of the street or not following five-foot rule near driveways: Solution:* Pete encouraged us to call **911** whenever we see an illegally-parked car. The police and parking monitors cannot respond to illegally-parked cars if they don't know about them

(continued Page 2)

Neighborhood Issues (cont'd)

Call **911 for all parking violations**, regardless of time of day (or night). Parking monitors are out until 3:00 a.m. and can hopefully respond before their shift ends. Everyone agreed that parking is “an issue” in our neighborhood and will always be there, to a certain extent, since we have too many cars and not enough parking availability. We discussed taking a proactive approach to parking, i.e., parking monitors are now actively patrolling our area on week-ends, since we are “hot bed” for illegally-parked cars on Friday and Saturday nights. We *emphasized* at this meeting that **parking enforcement in this area must remain a priority** and the officers agreed that they will keep this at the top of their list. **Late night parties/noise issues:** Again the officers encouraged us to call **911**. The officers have also been working with the landlords in the neighborhood to foster cooperation in handling repeat violations. **Illegal Third-Floor Apartments:** The officers are aware of these apartments and the City if taking action against the landlords.

We used the last part of the meeting to discuss neighborhood “best practices.” We asked Pete and Steve what other neighborhood associations are doing—*how do they spend their time? What are their goals? What are their successes, etc?* Pete and Steve said that in their experience, the more successful neighborhood associations hold many community events such as picnics, clean sweeps, etc. They both agreed that these types of events bring neighbors together and encourage discussion of neighborhood issues, sharing ideas, etc. A neighborhood that is very active in these areas is better equipped to handle problems as they arise. I definitely think we’re on the right track in this area. We’ve launched a new website to communicate information such as upcoming events and we’re also increasing the number of social events, such as happy hours, and have a Facebook page (search for ABC Streets) to help foster communication.

We will continue this approach that encourages community building and neighborhood interaction.

Message from the President . . .

Hi Neighbors! Welcome to another issue of the Newsletter. We have a lot of good articles in this issue, including a recap of the Holiday Party, updates on Morrison Park, our new website and an article on organic gardening from guest columnist, **Amanda Masek**.

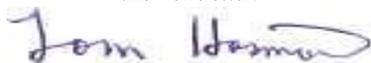
I am excited that this is our third consecutive newsletter printed in hardcopy and is delivered to all **550 households** in the ABC Streets neighborhood. Traditionally, we have published four newsletters per year; two in hardcopy and two sent via email (with a grant from the City of Rochester, we were able to publish an extra hardcopy newsletter last year).

Our summer newsletter will be in *soft-copy only* and we will publish it on our website. Be sure to check the website often for neighborhood events and news! While I’m on the subject of the newsletter, I would like to welcome **Marianne Pastecki** to the board. She joined the board in December and is the Newsletter Editor, taking over the position from me, which I took over *temporarily* while we searched for a permanent newsletter editor. I would also like to welcome **Kevin Hamblin** to the board. Kevin has previously served on the board from 2006-2007. It’s nice to have him serving again, where he will be assisting **Dave Burnet** with the website. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank *departing board member*, **Todd Perkins** for his service to ABC Streets. **Maureen Duggan** has replaced Todd as **Treasurer** and **Brooke Mayer** has taken over the **Secretary** duties from Maureen.

Finally, on a personal note, I am excited to announce that the **Hasman family** continues to grow and that we welcomed **Abigail Leah Hasman** on **February 17, 2010 at 9:17 a.m.** Big Brother Sam is very proud!

Linda, Sam, Abigail and I look forward to seeing everyone in the neighborhood as we walk our dog Basco. We love our neighborhood and are very excited that Spring is back!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any suggestions, concerns, etc., and don’t forget that our next **General Membership Meeting is scheduled for April 29th**! Details can be found in the **Events Section** of this Newsletter.


Be A Good Neighbor!

As the nice weather gets closer, and your entertainment responsibilities increase, be a good host & neighbor!

- ✓ If you’re having a party, the neighbors shouldn’t hear it after 10:00 p.m. You and/or your guests can be fined.
- ✓ Please notify your guests of the parking regulations when they are visiting your home. Illegally parked cars will be ticketed! Call **911** for infractions!
- ✓ **We ALL have indoor plumbing!** Please notify your guests that public urination is against the law!
- ✓ Grills on porches are a fire hazard and upholstered furniture becomes a home for “four-legged” creatures. Both are against city ordinances and carry fines if cited.
- ✓ Become a **Neighborhood TOOL (Turn On Outside Lights!)** and help thwart predators and thieves! Call 9-1-1 if anyone looks suspicious.
- ✓ Trash totes should be removed from the curb within 24 hours after pick-up.
- ✓ Don’t leave your recycle bins on porches. This is an invitation for the **grocery cart posse!** This goes for empty beer bottles and cans as well. *Go green and recycle!*
- ✓ Do not leave **valuables** in your vehicles in plain sight. Lock car doors and take valuables inside (cell phones, GPS systems, etc.).
- ✓ Vehicles should not be parked any closer than 5 feet from the edge of a driveway.
- ✓ Please clean up after your pets!

Have a new neighbor moving in? Contact **George or Lorrie Lorson** to have a **Welcome Packet** delivered! Includes a map of nearby Park Avenue merchants, recent neighborhood newsletters, helpful city ordinance info and a Neighborhood Association Membership Form.
abc.streets@gmail.com

Holiday Party Huge Success!

by Maureen Duggan

We lost count after 30 people... but regardless, the **Holiday Party**, so graciously hosted by **Maureen Duggan** and **Jim McIntosh** at **30 Audubon Street** on **December 19th** was one of the liveliest in some time! Neighbors got to vote for the Neighborhood Association name, learn more about the plans for Morrison Park and most important, connect or reconnect with neighbors from throughout the ABC Streets.

Upcoming Events

- **April 29:** *General Membership Meeting*
1600 East Avenue (Basement Conference Room) **6:30-8:00 p.m.**
- **May 15:** *Morrison Park Planting* **8:00 a.m.**
- **May 15:** *Neighborhood Yard Sale* **9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**
- **May 22:** *Clean Sweep* **9:00 a.m.-noon**
- **July 24:** *Neighborhood Picnic* (location & time TBA)

We send out weekly emails with neighborhood announcements and events. If you are interested in getting on the distribution list, please sign up by sending your email address to: abc.streets@gmail.com

ABC Streets Launches New Website

...by Dave Burnet

The **ABC Streets Neighborhood Association** launched a new website earlier this year. The site features a *calendar of events* on the front page, along with recent blog-style posts. We have two main sections: **About Us** and **Resources**.

The **About Us** section features information about the board members, a Newsletter archive and project section. In the *project section*, Jim Hondorf has posted information about the upcoming renovation of Morrison Park. The **Resource Section** contains links to the City of Rochester, local businesses and Monroe County.

We will be adding more to the site as time goes on. Please feel free to suggest enhancements. It is **your resource**—let's make it work for all of us!

If you would like to post a *personal event* on the site, *i.e.*, charity event, neighborhood happening, etc., send an email with the details to the ABC Streets email at: abc.streets@gmail.com. Be sure to include all relevant information, such as date, time, location, description of event and your name and/or phone number or email so interested parties can contact you directly.

Don't miss out! Check our website for upcoming events and neighborhood happenings @ www.abcstreets.org

Not on our Mailing List?

Interested in Receiving Email Updates?

Send your email address and we'll include you in our weekly email messages sent from our group mailbox- abc.streets@gmail.com

Become a Member!

The new membership year began January 1st. If you would like to renew your membership in the Neighborhood Association, you can send a check or drop-off cash to our **Treasurer**, **Maureen Duggan** at 30 Audubon Street. Checks should be made payable to **ABC Streets**.

We are also setting up our website to accept PayPal, so credit card payment is an option. If you do choose to use PayPal, please see rates below (to cover the transaction fee charged by PayPal).

Rates (cash or check)

\$5 for renters \$10 for homeowners

Rates (PayPal)

\$6 for renters \$12 homeowners

Neighborhood Yard Sale

Got junk in the trunk, garage, basement or attic?

Our **Neighborhood Yard Sale** is scheduled for Saturday, May 15 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

We will advertise on Craig's List (*it's free!*) and if enough interest generated, we can take out a paid ad in the Democrat & Chronicle. If you have an interest in participating, please contact us at abc.streets@gmail.com

Updates and details will be forthcoming

The ABC's of Outdoor Space

...by Maureen Duggan

There are many beautiful gardens in the ABC Streets, but what makes a beautiful four-season garden? I feel it is the visual interest provided by the foliage and shapes of trees and shrubs, as well as the architectural elements. A beautiful four-season garden doesn't necessarily need to be large. Careful placement can make even a *narrow space* beautiful. My vote goes to **1019/1021 Park Avenue** at the corner of **Ericsson**, for a great example of an eye-catching four-season garden. **Walk by and take a look!** Send your notes and photo's of unique & beautiful outdoor spaces to **Maureen Duggan** @ mcduggan@earthlink.net for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter.

Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Update

by Brooke Mayer

The Neighbors Building Neighborhoods process engages community members in defining community objectives and plays an integral part in guiding improvement projects and development in the City of Rochester.

The NBN process organizes the city into ten geographical sectors. The **ABC Streets** neighborhood is located in Sector 7 (for more info on NBN Sector 7, please visit: <http://nbnsector7.org>). The ABC Streets Neighborhood Association board sends a representative to these monthly meetings, which presents a great opportunity to see what other neighborhoods and community groups are up to. While we were not able to attend the most recent meeting, following is an overview of what was covered:

Recent discussions at **NBN7** meetings have focused on the impact of the city's newly-formed Quadrant Teams, created in July, 2009 as part of Mayor Duffy's *Vision for the City of Rochester*. These teams were formed with the aim of streamlining communication between community groups and city officials, in order to provide city services more seamlessly and cost-effectively.

As proposed in the **Southeast Quadrant Team's Strategic Action Plan**, the team will work with neighborhood groups to develop and implement strategic plans, attend to quality-of-life issues, coordinate and prioritize objectives among groups and promote the stability and growth of city neighborhoods and businesses.

The teams will work towards strengthening the four *key result areas* outlined in the **Duffy Administration's Strategic Plan**, *i.e.*, Customer Service and Organizational Effectiveness, Education, Public Safety and Neighborhood and Business Development. The Southeast Quadrant team is comprised of a group of key city personnel, each with experience and expertise in these key result areas.

Our board met with **Pete Saxe**, the **Neighborhood Service Center Administrator** for the SEQT, in February to discuss several quality-of-life issues. The meeting was productive and Pete, along with **Steve Edgett** (representing the **Rochester Police Department**), provided our board with code and city ordinance information and general guidance that would not have otherwise been readily at our disposal. The meeting exhibited the kind of *direct, results-driven communication* outlined in the **Quadrant Team's Strategic Action Plan**.

Invitation from a Neighbor

by Amanda Masek

In the 8 years we've owned our home, our little backyard has completely morphed. It started out pretty cool, with a zen garden, up-lighting, a shaded perennial bed and a koi pond, but we needed to make the space more of a living area once we had kids. We moved the pond, threw some more grass in and replanted all of the perennials. We made space for half-barrels for organically-grown vegetables. We're striving for a greener household and yard, so we are now composting and getting an electric mower (google "Neuton Mower" for more info).

We're excited to install a bat house for natural control of mosquitoes (bats eat mosquitoes), and we're going to have a rain barrel for watering the crops. We're putting in a raised bed for shallots, garlic, radishes and beans in a spot that I'd once envisioned a hot tub.

If you're planning a natural garden in a small space like we are, email me (amandacy@yahoo.com). We've put a lot of thought into it and have some pretty cool ideas. This summer, when the harvest is at its peak, we'd like to invite you all to stop by to check it out and (if all goes well!), sample some cherry tomatoes. Watch upcoming **ABC Streets Newsletters** for details!

And Now a Word From Our Sponsors!

(continued on Page 5 and 6)



Morrison Park Planting Day
by Jim Hondorf
May 15th @ 8:00 a.m.

The **ABC Streets Neighborhood Association** is pleased to announce that the **Morrison Park Project** is on track for completion this May. We would like to thank all of those that have made this project possible, including the **ABC Streets neighbors, Zaretsky & Associates** and the **City of Rochester**.

Come Dig in the Dirt with Us!

We still need your help! Volunteer to help with planting on May 15th by contacting **JimHondorf** at sbuhondo@yahoo.com or call Jim @ 281-1914.

We will be meeting at the park on **May 15th @ 8:00 a.m.** to begin the **“big dig!”**

We are also accepting donations of hosta’s for the park. Please contact Jim for more info!



Proposed Design for Morrison Park

City Workers Repair Curbing at Morrison Park



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