



Neighborhood View

A publication of the Upper Mt Hope Neighbors

Volume 4 Issue 2

New Pavilion Proposed for Highland Park

Dan Hurley

History of the Ellwanger and Barry Children’s Pavilion

The Ellwanger and Barry Children’s Pavilion was a three story structure created by renown landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmstead and funded by two famous Rochester nurserymen, George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry. The vision of the three men was in providing a shelter for sick children, mainly those with cholera infantum. They believed the structure should be constructed at the pinnacle of Highland Park in such a way as to provide a 360 degree unobstructed view of the surrounding area. The pavilion would stand 46 feet high and 62 feet in diameter, on a 200-foot diameter area of gardens and park roads. This exact spot currently exists near the reservoir by the large flagpole at the top of Highland Park. The plans for building completed in the spring of 1890, brought forth the dedication in September of the same year.

Used extensively until 1961, the pavilion hosted various functions such as dances, concerts, and weddings. Due to a lack of maintenance, the pavilion was deemed unsafe and torn down in 1963.

Proposed Pavilion

Recently formed is a committee to oversee building an exact replica of the pavilion at the same location. The proposed structure

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New Neighbors

Barb Sanko

If you are new to the neighborhood, and this is the first newsletter you are receiving, we would like to say, “Welcome!” and hope your stay here, whether it’s for the summer, or a longer period, is enjoyable. In this newsletter, you’re going to find much information about the immediate Mount Hope neighborhood and its businesses. You will also find a list of block representatives who can answer many of your questions. We would also like to let you know about a wonderful website that is filled with information about Rochester and the surrounding areas. Even longtime residents will find this website to be helpful. Check it out at:

www.movingtorochester.org



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**Make The Difference
 Become A Member**



**Call The NET Office
 For Information**

<i>Block Captains</i>		
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Elmwood	Available	elmwood@umhn.com

Letter From The President



Hello everyone!

Welcome to the summer issue of the UMHN's newsletter. Summer is a special season, and I believe especially so in the City. After a VERY LONG and cold winter, and a rainy, damp spring, we now have warm days and long evenings of lingering sunlight. For a neighborhood like ours, this means many people taking long walks, children at play, bicycles and tricycles on the sidewalks, gardeners busy with their plots, lawn mowers keeping grass well-trimmed, music wafting through the airways, the aromas of barbeque lingering in the air, and the various odd jobs of remodeling. In short, this is a busy, bustling and active neighborhood. This is what makes City living exciting and worthwhile. Get out and enjoy it!!

In my message in the last newsletter, I introduced myself as president and brought you up-to-date on a number of things happening in our Upper Mount Hope Neighborhood. You will read further updates on many of these topics in the current issue:

- *Wegmans* has started construction on its renovation project
- *Advantage Federal Credit Union's* membership is now open to all residents
- Many residents of UMHN spoke at City Hall concerning the expansion of the parking area at the Lattimore Medical Facility
- Project Hope which features the work of noted sculptor Achille Forgiione, will incorporate artwork into the landscape of Mt. Hope Ave. The project is working its way through the various City agencies for approval. We expect to have great news on Project Hope for our next newsletter.
- We are also busy planning the 3rd annual "Neighbors' Night Out" at Eastmoreland park on August 5th with ice cream, soda, and (we hope) a return visit by Tim the Juggler!

As you can see the Upper Mount Hope Neighbors (UMHN) association has been busy indeed!

Our website is now up and running. Please check it out at: <http://www.umhn.com>. You will see it grow and expand in the coming months. You can now contact any block representative by email. Just add @umhn.com to the street name (do not use road, avenue, street, or their abbreviations). For instance, you can contact me at: Irvington@umhn.com

So, get out and enjoy the summer, meet your neighbors, discover the larger neighborhood, partake in the life of this great City. I hope to see you all at the Night Out!

Thanks,

Bob Good

A Taste of Thailand

Bob Good

Our featured business this issue is a little jewel of a restaurant nestled into the middle of Mt. Hope Plaza. As you enter *Thai Taste*, you are struck by an elegant, yet simple décor. The walls are adorned with beautiful works of authentic art, mostly from the Chiangmai region of northeastern Thailand. In the middle of either sidewall is a stunning framed tapestry featuring festooned elephants - a symbol of good fortune in Thailand. There are also wonderful sculpted busts hanging on the walls depicting the headdress, jewelry, and other customs of the "hill people" in Northern Thailand. There are also beautiful hand painted folding fans with delicate and intricate scenery.



Around twenty years ago, Sy Somphan left his native Thailand with his family and came to Rochester, where they had family friends. He wanted to open a restaurant and after several years, he started *Thai Taste* with his daughter, Tina, who is the manager. There are two main cooks, Seng and Deng, which have been there for several years. Both Seng and Deng specialize in their own distinctive dishes.

Overall, the cuisine is in the Bangkok style, characterized by lemon grass, lime leaves, and basil as distinctive ingredients. They also use very little oil and none of the dishes is breaded. There are a lot of appetizers, salads, and soups from which to choose. The fresh spring rolls are one of my favorites. Among the entrees, you will find a variety of stir-fried and curried dishes, as well as a number of "house specialties." Rice is served with most of the dishes. However, there are also a number of traditional noodle dishes.

I have a number of favorites, and I'll share a few with you. **Pra Rarm Long Song** has steamed spinach topped with peanut sauce over chicken or shrimp. The **seafood curry** has shrimp, scallops, and calamari served with a red curry and coconut cream sauce. (You may substitute for the squid if you'd like!) **Pud Med Ma Muag** is your choice of meat or seafood sautéed with cashew nuts, mushrooms, onions and green onions. Many of the dishes can be ordered mild, medium, hot, and very hot for those who like it spicier. Many of the dishes can also be ordered in a vegetarian style. For dessert, I've had the mango and sweet rice several times and have always found it delicious.



**½ PRICE
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Buy 1 Dinner. Get the 2nd of
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THAI TASTE

1675 Mt. Hope Ave
Tel (585) 461-4154
Expires 08/31/03

The prices are extremely reasonable, ranging from \$7.95 to \$12.95 for almost all main dishes.

So, if you are looking for an inexpensive evening out, right in our own back yard, walkable for most of us, with a pleasant atmosphere and friendly hosts, then I suggest that you make your way to *Thai Taste* in the Mt. Hope Plaza!

Highlights from the Spring General Meeting

Donald Green

Have you ever gone to one of those meetings where the speakers are uninteresting and can put the listeners to sleep at the drop of a hat? Not the scenario when you attend an Upper Mount Hope Neighbors (UMHN) general meeting. Attending the spring meeting on May 12 were the UMHN Block/Street Representatives, as well as the neighbors who make our great community a diverse and wonderful place to live! The gathering promptly started at 7:10pm and adjourned at 8:35pm. UMHN makes an effort to keep the two annual neighborhood meetings fun and brief. UMHN also enjoys obtaining interesting speakers relative to current changes happening in the area.

Good News! UHMN unveiled its Project Hope prototype with the assistance of Achille Forgione and Street Representatives/Project coordinators, Dan Hurley and Bob Good. Most of the air was drawn out of the room as the neighbors viewed the splendid street banner holder in total awe and admiration.



Frank Scarcelli, Bob Good, Donald Green, Dan Hurley, Achille Forgione, Max Reiter

Our first speaker, Lt. Steve Edgett spoke to us about the importance of PAC TAC and explained that citizens who wish to get involved are able to act as the “ears and eyes” of the police department. He reviewed the program and told us how to become a participant.

Next, Deb Swift, of CERT and SEAC joined us to discuss, in detail, the elements involved in becoming a CERT member. CERT is an acronym for Community Emergency Response Team. The Office of Emergency Operations can call upon CERT members during local disasters. Deb brought a very informative video, which depicted a dramatized incident, and showed how CERT could be deployed during a local incident.

Our final guest speaker was Glenroy Sicard of the University of Rochester. Glenroy gave us valuable information on how to handle parking problems in the general vicinity. He assisted neighbors with a question & answer session, as well as another venue for which neighbors could seek help with parking problems on their streets.

UMHN was happy to have included, as an impromptu speaker, City Planner and neighbor, Larry Stid, who gave an update on the Gateway Project. The design phase will begin this fall and take about 18 months. UMHN has been invited to important informational meetings as the project moves forward.

The conclusion of the meeting resulted in UMHN’s President, Bob Good, raffling off a deluge of special gifts from our many wonderful local businesses. Many thanks to all the sponsors that help make our meetings a pleasure to attend.

Pavilion for Highland Park



Postcard Image from the Committee to Rebuild the Children's Pavilion in Highland Park

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will be more weather resistant and include an elevator, for those who do not climb stairs. The target date for dedicating this wonderful addition to Highland Park is September 2006. Although the feasibility study is completed, the design plans need to be finalized. The estimated cost of the pavilion is \$2.4 million dollars. The Committee to Rebuild the Children's Pavilion in Highland Park welcomes your input and support.

Please contact them at c/o

Southeast Area Coalition
 990 South Clinton Ave.
 Rochester, NY 14620
 (585) 244-7405
www.HighlandParkConservancy.org

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South East Area Coalition (SEAC) Tool Library

Max Reiter

Every job is only as good as the tools used to build it! Perhaps you don't always have the right tool for the job. Well, look no further. The SEAC Tool Library is located at 1045 South Clinton Avenue in the old VFW Post garage. It is open on Tuesday and Thursday from 5-7pm and on Saturday from 9-12am. The telephone number is 585-244-7915. A small, one time-only membership fee is required. One of SEAC's most used programs allows members to ignore the expense of tools needed to make home repairs and to borrow them from the library, much as someone borrows a library book. How many times have you purchased a sander, paint rollers or a rototiller, used it once a year or less and allowed it to sit after your project is finished? SEAC's tool lending library allows people to have state-of-the-art tools to address their needs. The library also has workbenches for small projects or repairs, space for seminars, and storage for the library's gas powered equipment.

**Are you registered to vote?
Contact the League of
Women's Voters to register.**

Gathering at the Playground

Niki Black

My husband Scott and I moved into our home at 87 Elmerston Rd. in February of 1999 and welcomed the birth of our daughter, Sophie, in February of 2002. In January of this year, I left my job as an attorney and am now at home with my daughter full time while I try my hand at writing a novel.

Now that I'm home all day, I have a much greater appreciation of the benefits offered by our family-friendly neighborhood. I love to spend time at the playground with Sophie and we enjoy long strolls through the neighborhood. While engaging in these activities, I have become increasingly aware of the large number of families with young children who reside here. I've also noticed that during the week, many parents and children will visit the playground at different times, missing other families by only a few minutes.

It occurred to me that it might be beneficial for the many families in this neighborhood if an informal parents group was created, since this neighborhood is full of young families, including many stay at home parents or parents with unusual schedules due to the nature of their work. An informal neighborhood group would be a great way for families to get to know one another while taking advantage of the unique characteristics of our neighborhood, such as the centrally located playground. At the very least, it would serve the function of allowing members to form playgroups and possibly organize play times at the park so that parents and children could meet at the playground a few days per week at scheduled times. The group's activities could also be expanded further, if need be, to meet the continuing needs of its members.

I have space on the World Wide Web available to me as part of my internet access plan and plan to post information about the group on a web page, such the playground play time schedule, so that it will be easily accessible to members. I also think it would be easy to create a listserve on Yahoo, so that members can contact one another. I envision members using it to contact others to see if they want to buy or sell certain items, like toys, or to publicize a garage sale, etc.

I'm in the process of distributing flyers throughout the neighborhood regarding the possibility of creating this type of group and have already received a number of e-mails from interested families, so I am very hopeful that this will come to fruition. If you're interested in participating, please e-mail me, Niki Black, at nicole63@rochester.rr.com or feel free to stop by our home at 87 Elmerston Road and introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting everyone!

Advantage Federal Credit Union Opens Membership

Bob Good

In the last issue of this newsletter, we featured the *Advantage Federal Credit Union* situated at the corner of Lattimore and Mount Hope. In that article, we mentioned that they expected to announce that membership would soon open to all the residents of our neighborhood. Well, that time has arrived! As of now, anyone who lives, works, or worships within the City of Rochester is eligible to become a member of the *Advantage Federal Credit Union*.

I have spoken with several of the staff and they are excited about this new prospect. They look forward to the opportunity to meet new members, and to become one of the favorite banks for the Upper Mount Hope Neighbors.

Upper Mt Hope Neighbors Receives \$1,600 Grant

Terry Correa

A much-appreciated thank you goes to Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF) for awarding Upper Mt. Hope Neighbors a NeighborGood "East 2002" Grant. NeighborGood grants are intended the help Rochester city neighborhood organizations in engaging citizens in the affairs of their neighborhoods and communities. RACF encourages these neighborhoods to engage in the "Neighbors Building Neighborhoods" (NBN) community planning process.

Rochester Area Community Foundation has been awarding NeighborGood Grants for over eight years and has disbursed over \$335,000 through nearly 250 grants. These grants are for Rochester city neighborhoods involved in residential driven projects that improve on quality of life. Other Neighborhoods have used their grants on array of projects: National Night Out Against Crime events, beautification projects, community cleanups, Neighborhood Welcome baskets, PACTAC support, community gardens, and more.

Upper Mt. Hope Neighbors is utilizing this grant for the support of our neighborhood newsletter. Communications is a key component in engaging our neighbors in the business of building our community and the Neighborhood View has been invaluable in this capacity. The continued publication of the newsletter coincides with both RACF's objectives and Upper Mt. Hope Neighbors: to increase resident participation and quality leadership in neighborhood organizations.

Lattimore Medical Center

Bob Good

On Wednesday July 16, several members of UMHN met with the executive board of the owners of the Lattimore Medical Building to discuss alternatives to the proposed plan for parking expansion. The meeting was very cordial and the owners were very receptive to both the spirit of our meeting as well as several of the specific suggestions that we made. There was a clear expression on both sides that we would all like to work together to accomplish two goals: to preserve the existing green space and to resolve the problems of the parking shortage

which many patients experience when they arrive for their appointments.

We hope that we can continue this dialogue between the neighborhoods and the owners of the building with the goal of achieving a result that everyone will find as positive and which will allow the neighbors and the medical building to live together as good neighbors with a mutual respect for each other.

Stayed tuned, we want to keep everyone informed and involved as this process moves forward.

**You're Cordially Invited
to the
Highland Section
PAC-TAC Recognition &
Recruitment Picnic**

Saturday, July 26, 2003

3:00PM-7:00PM

at

Highland Park Bowl

Come One, Come All,
to celebrate
and recognize PAC-TACer's

**Free Food and Fun
while learning more about
PAC-TAC**