

News Letter

A Bi-Annual Publication

www.uppermonroeavenue.org

Spring 2010



President's Message

Upper Monroe's neighbors have been doing anything but hibernating this winter. In addition to our tireless citizen and business advocacy, we have been working with the City and other non-profits to bring more resources and opportunities to our neighborhood that will result in permanent change for the better.

For example, UMNA has worked with the South East Area Coalition (SEAC) to hire Joan Hildebrand as our new Monroe Ave. street manager in an effort to bring positive changes to our Monroe Avenue strip.

We have also raised thousands of dollars for the construction of Wide Waters community garden which is set to open in May. This new asset will be a permanent catalyst for providing locally grown produce to City residents, fostering entrepreneurial skills and healthy eating habits in our youth and providing a much needed civic gathering spot.

With out a doubt, we are moving the ball forward but there is still a lot to be done. With your help, TOGETHER we can make our neighborhood reflect the amenities and values you would like to see! Become a member of our neighborhood association and make a difference. To become a member, simply complete the form on the back of this newsletter or contact either myself or Chris Stevens. Better yet, come to our next meeting at The Corner Place (the 1st Tuesday. of every month). Come see how gratifying and fun neighborhood involvement can be!

See you in the neighborhood!

- Bill Schwappacher

4th Annual Garden Sale Saturday May 8th 10:00 – 1:00

The Upper Monroe Neighborhood Association is hosting its 4th annual plant sale.



Get a jump start on the gardening season or find a great gift for Mother's Day by joining us on Saturday May 8th from 10 am – 1 pm. As in past years the setup will be in

front of the New Life Presbyterian Church at the corner of Monroe Ave and Rosedale St.

This year promises to be an exciting event with the return of last year's vendors who will provide great selections for your home or community garden beds. Again we will offer local, organically grown vegetables and a host of native plants.

Find great additions for your garden while supporting the neighborhood, all profits go towards Upper Monroe improvement projects and activities. Bring in your old nursery pots for recycling and receive a discount on your purchases! Discount is determined by the amount and size of pots. We hope to see you there!

Wide Water Gardens to Open May 1st

One of Rochester's largest community gardens will be opening right in Upper Monroe and you are invited to be a part of it.



Wide Water Gardens is a joint project between the Upper Monroe Neighborhood Association (UMNA), Third Rochester Enterprises Corporation

(TREC), New Life Presbyterian Church and the City of Rochester to bring a new urban agricultural, educational and recreational resource to the residents of the City of Rochester and surrounding communities.

Ground will be broken in April of this year and will be ready for planting in May. With your help, Wide Water Gardens is poised to provide organic, locally grown produce to City residents, establish programs

to catalyze entrepreneurial skills and healthy eating habits in our youth and provide a civic gathering spot that fosters a stronger community.

An official groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Earth Day April 22nd at the garden at the corner of Rosdale and Hinsdale Streets.. The community is invited to a morning work party the following **Saturday April 24th from 10 am till 12 noon**. Get together with neighbors to construct gardens, and otherwise get dirty. Lunch Is provided!

If you are interested in renting a plot for the 2010 season or would like more information on this exciting resource, please visit: www.uppermonroeavenue.org/widewatergardens.

UMNA Spring Clean-up

Spring is coming (hard to believe with 8" of snow out there!) and our neighborhood needs a little spring cleaning. So come on down and help UMNA with its spring clean-up—it is a great way to build community with your neighbors. As in past years, the 2010 UMNA spring clean-up will be held in connection with the City's Southeast Clean Sweep Day which is being held on May 22nd starting at Cobbs Hill Park (across from Lake Riley lodge). You have two choices for meeting. First, you could come to the Clean Sweep tent at Cobbs Hill Park at 8:30am to have some coffee, juice and donuts, and then volunteer at one of the many work sites in southeast Rochester (hopefully by going to the UMNA work site table!). Work gloves, paint, plastic bags, etc. will be provided by the City. The other option is to just meet at the UMNA Community Garden site on the north end of Rosedale Street (near I-490) at 9am. Our four major work projects will include: 1) work on the new UMNA Community garden, 2) painting of Monroe Avenue light poles, 3) work on the four UMNA flower gardens along Monroe (and one on Culver Road), and litter pick-up along Monroe. Since this year's Clean Sweep is late in May, we expect most of the work will involve the Community Garden and pole painting projects—but we will see.

So, please come out, get some exercise, bring your work gloves and maybe a rake or shovel, and help spiff up your own neighborhood. If you have any questions on our spring clean-up activities, please give me a call at 442-2035 or email me at jnthomas@frontiernet.net

John Thomas

Garden Group

Again, on this cold and snowy Sunday I am hoping for the early arrival of spring and the opportunity to be outside watching our gardens awake and bloom. Their planting and maintenance have added so much to the neighborhood - it isn't just the beauty of the flowers but the comradie and friendship of those involved in their care. We work for an hour Wednesdays from 7 to 8 in the evening and indulge in ice cream on my porch afterwards. We'd love more help! Call and leave a message to get on the weekly notification list.

Jane Alexander - 244-8415

UMNA's Bicycle Boulevards

On December 2, 2009, the Upper Monroe Neighborhood Association (UMNA) Executive Committee voted to support the Bicycle Boulevard (BB) concept in the City of Rochester. This decision may herald a healthier, friendlier, and safer neighborhood for us all, even if you don't bike. What are bicycle boulevards? BB's are low-traffic neighborhood streets that have been optimized for bicycling. The goal is to provide attractive, safe routes through the neighborhood for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Why the Upper Monroe neighborhood? In order to adopt a city-wide system of bicycle boulevards, they must be coordinated across many neighborhoods. UMNA stepped up to the plate and became the first neighborhood in our city to endorse the City of Rochester's decision to include BBs in its Bicycle Masterplan. Eventually, we want to provide

the Rochester community with an example of BBs designed to connect neighborhoods with the city-wide trail system and to encourage bicycle use by casual bike riders to nearby destinations.

Please consider riding your bicycle with us on our first Upper Monroe BB ride. This is just one of the events for Rochester's Bike Week to show off our neighborhood and the BB concept. We'll meet up at Cobb's Hill Park and bike to Ford's Street Bridge (2.13 miles) then on to Boulder Coffee shop on 955 Genesee Street (1.54 miles) and back. We'll stop and have coffee. Here's the skinny: When: 1 PM, Sunday, May 23rd, 2010; Where: Cobbs Hill Park; Helmet required; Total bicycling distance: 7.34 miles of fun; Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult; Free and Open to the public.

If you want to see the five specific BB routes in the Upper Monroe Neighborhood, and learn all about BBs, surf over to UpperMonroeAvenue.org and click on "Bicycle Boulevards - adopted in UMNA"

New Meeting Time

Starting April 7th, UMNA will be having it's meetings on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at 969 Monroe Ave. Hope to see you there.

\$5.00 Coupon

UPPER MONROE
GARDEN SALE MAY 8th

Bring this coupon to the Upper Monroe Garden sale and receive \$5.00 towards any purchase.

S P O N S O R S

Support Your Neighborhood by Making a Donation

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email*: _____

** You can provide your email address to receive periodic email updates. In our mailings, your address is hidden from other UMNA members, and is not distributed to anyone else (we're all fed up with spam!).*

Annual Dues:

- \$10 (household, property owner, or business)
- \$5 (senior citizen, student, or renter)
- \$30 Household SEAC + UMNA (normally \$40 for both)
- \$_____ - Donation to the Monroe Avenue Beautification Fund
- \$_____ - Additional support

Make checks payable to UMNA and mail or return it to:

Chris Stevens
 179 Crosman Terrance
 Rochester, NY 14620

The Upper Monroe Neighborhood Association (UMNA) is a not-for-profit advocacy group representing the 3,300 residents and property owners in the Upper Monroe Neighborhood.

Newsletter contributors:

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UMNA Officers:

President - **Bill Schwappacher**, Vice-President - **Jeanne Webber**, Treasurer - **Chris Stevens**, Secretary - **Ellen Lyttle**, Gardens - **Anne Lichtenstein**, Volunteer Coordinator - **Jane Alexander**, Webmaster - **Frank Regan**.