



Upper Monroe News

A biannual publication of the Upper Monroe Neighborhood Association (UMNA)

www.UpperMonroeAvenue.org

Upper Monroe Neighborhood Association

Fall 2007

2007 UMNA Annual Meeting November 7

Mark your calendars! The Annual UMNA meeting is November 7 at New Life Church on Monroe and Rosedale at 7:00pm. We will discuss past successes and future plans and will be accepting nominations for and electing officers for the Upper Monroe Neighborhood Association. This year we need a new Secretary, Treasurer and Vice President. The duties are quite modest but the opportunity to make a difference is absolutely huge! Please consider taking this step and help us all make a real difference in our lives and that of all our neighbors young and old. Our featured guest speaker will be City Councilman Bill Pritchard from Upper Monroe! He will speak on living in Rochester and our neighborhood in particular as well as things we can do together to maintain Upper Monroe as a desirable place to live. Finally, Councilman Pritchard will take questions from our audience. Please join us for what is sure to be an interesting and informative presentation.



Children's Garden Mural Unveiled

As about 50 neighbors and guests looked on, the Children's Garden Mural was unveiled on Saturday, September 29 in the garden abutting the soundwall on Laburnam Crescent. Twenty neighborhood children worked on the mural over the summer, under the direction of artists Joseph Sorrentino and Shawn Dunwoody. The three panels that comprise the mural depict children from the area as well as scenes from Upper Monroe's past. Now that the mural is up, attention will be turned toward re-planting the garden next spring (part of it

was dug up when the posts for the mural were put in). We hope to expand the butterfly garden and put in a shade garden. In the meantime, stop by the soundwall end of Laburnam and see this beautiful new addition to our neighborhood!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS: IT'S YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

UMNA ANNUAL MEETING

TIME: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 7PM

PLACE: NEW LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 243 ROSEDALE
See article for more details.

UPPER MONROE NEWS

TIME: SPRING 2008

Do you have news or ads you would like to share with the neighborhood? Contact Josh Bauroth at 429-5445

SECOND ANNUAL UPPER MONROE WINTER PARTY

TIME: SATURDAY JANUARY 12, 2008, 1-4 PM

PLACE: TAY HOUSE (next to MC Water Auth. on Norris Dr.)
Sledding, games, snacks, warm fire, and great neighbors!

SECOND ANNUAL UMNA PLANT SALE

TIME: SATURDAY MAY 3, 2008

Stay tuned to the UMNA website or check the spring newsletter for details.

UMNA MONTHLY MEETING

TIME: 1ST WEDNESDAYS, 7:15PM

PLACE: THE CORNER PLACE, 969 MONROE AVE
Attend a monthly UMNA meeting, meet your neighbors, and have a voice in neighborhood issues.



Photos courtesy of Joseph Sorrentino

Children's Garden Mural: Be sure to see it in color!

Charrette Implementation Struggles Along

As chairperson of the UMNA Charrette Implementation Committee, I can tell you we have been struggling with implementation of the neighborhood charrette recommendations during the past year. The story is too long to tell here in a brief newsletter, so I encourage you to go to UMNA's web site at <http://www.uppermonroeavenue.org/Design%20Charrette.html> to get the full story.

There has been progress: We constructed a community garden at the corner of Belmont and Monroe using a \$2,000 NeighborGood grant from the Rochester Area Foundation. We discussed state multi-modal funding of the Culver Road narrowing project with Assemblymember Susan John's staff. David Walsh is leading the Armory Site sub-committee, which is considering actions for the Culver Road Armory site (including a possible \$4,000 City grant thanks to City Councilman Bill Pritchard). Architectural renderings and cost estimates have been developed for the New Life Presbyterian Church front yard "piazza" thanks to a \$1,000 grant from the Genesee Valley Presbytery and Victor Presbyterian church. A Gateway Sub-committee conducted its own pedestrian counts on the I-490/Monroe Avenue bridge and has had discussions with the City's bridge engineer. And the Urban Village/Design Guidelines sub-committee is negotiating an agreement with the Rochester Regional Design Center (RRCDC) for design guidelines for several buildings in the 900 block of Monroe.

As I reflect on the above projects, I see we have indeed been busy in implementing charrette ideas. But we have much more to do. Coming up with ideas to improve our neighborhood is the fun part; implementing those ideas is the struggle, but ultimately the most satisfying part. We welcome your involvement in keeping this initiative going. We encourage you to pick a charrette sub-committee (or the over-all Charrette Committee itself) and to help implement UMNA neighborhood improvements in that sub-area. Without this involvement, all our work with the charrette may be lost. Please give us a hand.

John Thomas
442-2035

PETS FIRST

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Pets are less stressed, happier and healthier when cared for in their own home. Please let **PETS FIRST** be there when you can't.



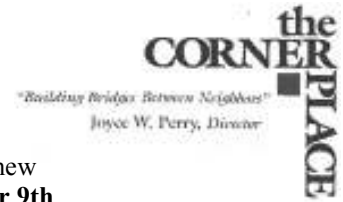
10% of proceeds donated to no-kill animal shelter.

* In Home PET SITTING/Vacation Service * DOG WALKING
* Pet Taxi for Vet & Groomer * Pooper Scooper, etc.

Paul Ignatowski & April Daniels - owner, operators

Phone: **585 284-3544** email: petsfirst@petsits.com

News from The Corner Place



The Corner Place will begin a new Arts Academy term on **October 9th**.

Classes for children ages 5 to 14, after school on Tuesday and Wednesday, include **Art, Music and Intro to Dance** for boys and girls. Registration is on-going until classes are full. All classes are open to the public at \$18/course, but we continue to offer children's classes at only a \$5.00 registration fee to families from School #35 or the Upper Monroe neighborhood.

You asked for it, so we are adding **3 classes for adults**: *Art, Finding your Inner Self through Mixed Media* at \$30.00; *Music, a Show Choir concentrating on show, jazz, and pop songs* at \$25.00; and *Crafts, learning to make simple gifts* at \$12.00. For more information or to register, call Joyce Perry at 244-3125, or email cornerplace@frontiernet.net.

Expanded opportunities at our new location at 969 Monroe Avenue may include story hours, workshops for parents, classes and social opportunities for women. **We would very much like to hear from you as to how we can best meet your needs and interests.** Contact Joyce Perry at 244-3125 or pass along your ideas through UMNA.

Our neighbor on the City Council:



City of Rochester

William F. Pritchard
Councilmember
At-Large

Office: (585) 428-7538

FAX: (585) 428-6347

Home: (585) 442-9893

City Hall, Room 301-A

30 Church Street

Rochester, New York 14614

E-mail: William.Pritchard@cityofrochester.gov

First UMNA Plant Sale a Great Success

The first annual Upper Monroe plant sale was a rousing success, raising nearly \$500 for neighborhood beautification and other UMNA activities. Special thanks goes to Cheryl Dorrance, Judy Sternberg, and Jan and Bill Schwappacher for all their hard work. Next year promises to be even bigger and better with a much wider variety of trees, shrubs, perennials and houseplants. The sale will be held **Saturday, May 3rd, 2008**. Mark your calendars for great deals for your home and garden. If you can help out with the next plant sale, please contact Bill Schwappacher at bschwapp@holimolimedia.com or 256-0028.

Call for Members

Summer is over, leaves are falling, and now is the time to do those tasks you may have put off for another day. Upper Monroe's neighbors have been busy this past spring and summer maintaining our lovely gardens, following up with the Charrette, initiating the Engle Place Garden Project, as well as the newly unveiled Laburnam mural and children's garden. Working with the NET Office, writing letters to city officials, or simply picking up trash from in front of our houses, we can all help make things better here in Upper Monroe whether or not we are members of the neighborhood association. With your help, though, TOGETHER we can do even more!

Our Upper Monroe neighborhood needs your help to keep moving in the right direction. Becoming a member of our neighborhood association, makes a world of difference to what can be achieved. To become a member, simply complete the form on the back of this newsletter or contact either Joshua Bauroth or Charlotte Baltus. Or even better, come to our next meeting at The Corner Place (the 1st Wed. of each month) and see how easy and fun neighborhood involvement can be!

2008 City Property Reassessments Underway

Many of you have received letters announcing that our property values are in the process of being reassessed. This is an ongoing project the city is committed to and just another part of living in the modern world. That being said, there is nothing to say that we, as good citizens, can't ask questions and look out for ourselves and our neighbors. Any property owner who needs more information about reassessments should contact the City Assessor's Office at 716-428-7950.



**Remember to support our local businesses
this holiday season!**

Remember to support our local businesses!

**Jason's
Hair
Design**

"When no one seems to care, I'll cut your hair"

982 Monroe Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620

Jason/Stylist
585-256-3271

Where Do You Want to Live?

Many of us live here because we choose to live here; others for one reason or another ended up here, but one thing is true for us all: Our neighborhood is what *we* make it. Each of us is responsible in some small way for the quality of life that all of us experience. So often we see trash left by someone else and we assume it is not our responsibility to take care of it. While this may be true, it doesn't actually make sense to continually assume that others will take care of their own responsibility. Things can happen inadvertently, in which case the responsible party isn't even aware of it. In any case, our entire neighborhood suffers when unsightly trash is left, so we are punishing ourselves when we leave trash strewn about, even when we did not put it there. UMNA has held an annual spring cleanup (more fun than you would think) for many years, but remember that keeping our neighborhood clean is a yearlong endeavor that is in everyone's best interest.

2008 Upper Monroe Winter Party

Last January, winter arrived just in time for UMNA's first winter party. The hill outside Tay House was blanketed with snow, and the temperature was just above the single digits. Many of our neighbors came out to celebrate the belated arrival of the season with sleds in gloved hands.

This year's Second Annual Winter Party will be held **on January 12th**. Tay House has been reserved from 1 until 4 pm. While we cannot guarantee the right conditions for sledding, there will certainly be a roaring fire with lots of hot coffee and snacks. There will be cider, coffee, kippers, and wings. We've planned lots of fun outdoor games for the kids, and there are raffles for the adults. Mark your calendars! If you sign up for the UMNA email distribution list at <http://groups.google.com/group/UMNA-News>, you will receive a couple of reminders as the date gets closer. We hope to see you there!



UPPER MONROE AVENUE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT SURVEY

To help the neighborhood association more proactively attract the kind of businesses, goods, and services that will improve vibrancy and quality of life in our neighborhood, we want to know what you'd like to see along Upper Monroe Avenue. On a scale of 1-10, with 1 being most desired and 10 being least desired, rate how much you'd like to have the following businesses/uses in our commercial district.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery Store | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Office Supply Store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Store | <input type="checkbox"/> Fitness Store / Gym |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bakery | <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric/Craft Store | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography Store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Center | <input type="checkbox"/> Toy Store | <input type="checkbox"/> Transit Station |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bookstore | <input type="checkbox"/> Auto Repair | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurant (specify type): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing Store | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoe Store | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Store | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Space | <input type="checkbox"/> Art Gallery | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsstand | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater / Performance Venue | OTHER? Please Specify and RATE: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift/Card/Paper/Stationery Shop | _____ |

Please return the survey to Charlotte Baltus at the address below by November 15. Thank-you for your input!

2007 UMNA Membership Form

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

** You can provide your email address to receive periodic email updates (3-4/month). 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

Senility Check: *Can't remember when you last contributed? Contact Charlotte Baltus (I've been writing it down ☺).*

Make checks payable to: UMNA
Mail or return to: Charlotte Baltus
 41 Belmont St.
 Rochester, NY 14620
 charlotte_athome@yahoo.com
 224-9075

UMNA OFFICES/COMMITTEES

President	Joshua Bauroth	429-5445
Vice President	Open position	
Secretary	Christine Madsen	226-1654
Treasurer	Charlotte Baltus	224-9075
Gardens	Anne Lichtenstein	244-7373
Webmaster	Frank Regan	224-9075

Newsletter contributors: Charlotte Baltus, Josh Bauroth, Christine Madsen, Joyce Perry, Bill Schwappacher, Joseph Sorrentino, John Thomas

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.



Are you interested in promoting your local business in our newsletter? Contact Charlotte Baltus at 224-9075.

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