



NEIGHBORHOOD VIEW

A publication of the Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association • Volume 12 Issue 1

Join the fun!



National Night Out is August 2nd, 6:30pm

This is the annual event when our neighborhood comes together at **Eastmoreland Park** for an evening of festivities & to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. We will gather at **6:30pm**, weather permitting, to enjoy all kinds of activities... craft projects for the kids, free ice cream treats, and a water shower compliments of our local fire department (prepare to get wet). **We are fortunate to have a variety of musical groups joining us this year.** We have invited community leaders, officers from the RPD, fire fighters and trucks from the RFD, and local business owners.

Also new this year will be the City's "**Rec on the Move**" van. This van will be at the park throughout the week of Aug. 2-5, and will be at our **National Night Out** celebration until 8:30pm, providing extra special equipment and activities for the kids. See article on page 8.



Bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets and stay awhile. If it rains on the scheduled night, we'll postpone till the following evening; **a sign will be posted at the park**, or you can **check the web site** for details. We especially welcome new neighbors to this event. Come and meet us, get involved, and help to make our neighborhood a better place to live.

Story Time in the Park

Our neighborhood children have been meeting at the playground (Eastmoreland Park) on Wednesdays for a story and crafts. There is one additional time scheduled: **July 27th at 10am**. Pack a lunch and stay to play. All ages welcome. If anyone else is interested in hosting or planning activities for children and families in the neighborhood, please contact **Amy Shelton** at kids_activities@umhn.com

Stories in the Park

What could be better than reading a good book on a lazy summer day?

Reading stories in the park with young neighborhood kids, of course!



Mark your Calendar



Upcoming activities:

- **July 27:** Story Time in the Park. Eastmoreland Park 10am.
- **August 2nd:** UMHN National Night Out. Eastmoreland Park 6:30pm.
- **August 2-5:** Rec. on the Move at Eastmoreland Park, 2-6pm
- **August 15:** UMHN Monthly Meeting. St. Anne Church, 7pm
- **August 16:** Canal Path Clean-Up, parking lot, corner of Westmoreland and Kendrick Roads, across from the Ronald McDonald House. 6:30PM



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President's Letter

Hi Everyone! I'd like to update everyone on the status of our neighborhood and what can be expected within the next year. The City of Rochester is currently in the process of acquiring the property required to start the Mt. Hope Avenue reconstruction process. We anticipate this process will be completed soon. I have been told that the major work on Mt. Hope will likely begin in March 2012.

The work on the **Collegetown** property will start around the same time as the Mt. Hope project. This will start with the demolition of the U of R Town House on the corner of Elmwood and Mt. Hope along with the professional building next door.

I'd also like to take time now to talk about the future of the **Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association** or **UMHN**. As you may or may not know, UMHN is an all volunteer effort by a small number of your neighbors to deliver news, projects and a voice for our neighborhood. It seems as though we have had the same people leading UMHN for the past 2-4 years now, and I believe unless we see a stronger interest in new leadership, the efforts of those who volunteer to make your neighborhood a better place will dwindle.

A small number of people keeping UMHN up and running, means that each person has to utilize large amounts

of time, energy and resources. It also means those individuals are becoming less and less inclined to deliver what our neighborhood takes for granted.

Back in March, UMHN put out a request for neighbors to donate **just three hours** of their time per year to help out UMHN. Four months later we have had only 2 responses. For those of you who utilize the services offered by UMHN, just imagine what it would be like without a Neighborhood Association. All that being said, unless we start to see a dramatic interest in UMHN membership and leadership opportunities, the current UMHN board will lose interest in carrying out the duties and responsibilities required to keep this organization running. And in short that means **UMHN will no longer exist**.

So, it is my hope that after reading this, the situation we are in turns around dramatically. We don't want to scare anyone here but we have to present the reality of what is happening.

Our best to all of you,

Dan





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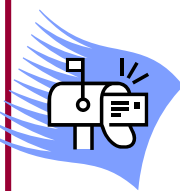
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NEIGHBORHOOD VIEW

A PUBLICATION OF THE UPPER MOUNT HOPE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
Quarterly Newsletter - Spring 2011

Editors: Barb Sanko & Irma Abu-Jumah



This is a neighborhood newsletter. We are always looking for different voices from around the neighborhood to write, reflect, report or to share photographs. If you have ideas to contribute, would like to get involved or simply have questions about the newsletter, write to Barb at 123 Raleigh, Rochester, NY 14620, send us an e-mail to Newsletter_editor@umhn.com or call her at 244-1812.

We want to hear from you!

Upper Mt Hope Neighborhood Association
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“Our” Strong Family *by Karl Kabelac*

Most people probably don't realize that the “Strong” of **Strong Memorial Hospital** and the “Strong” of **The Strong**, home of the National Museum of Play in downtown Rochester, were two different families. Although it is somewhat of a coincidence that they were both in Rochester, they were, however, related. And both family fortunes were based on Eastman Kodak stock.

The Hospital is named for **Henry Alvah Strong**, 1838-1919, and his first wife, **Helen Griffin Strong**, 1839-1904. He was a native of Rochester and early Eastman Kodak investor and executive. Their two daughters gave the naming gift for the hospital in the early 1920s.



Henry Alvah Strong for whom, with his first wife, Helen Griffin Strong, Strong Memorial Hospital is named. (Courtesy Miner Library, UR Medical Center)

A tribute to the Strongs is incised in the beautiful wood wall above the fireplace in the reading room of the **Miner Library** at the Medical Center. From 1926, when the hospital first opened, to 1975, when the present hospital opened, this area had served as the waiting room for the hospital.

The Strong Museum is named for **Margaret Woodbury Strong**, 1897-1969. She was the only child of John and Alice Woodbury of Rochester,

early investors in Eastman Kodak. In 1920 she married Homer Strong, a native of Schenectady and a Rochester lawyer some years older than she. During her life she formed many collections and in her will she left these collections and much of her estate for the creation of a museum. When the museum first opened in 1982, it focused on middle class American culture, 1840 to 1940, but in

recent years it has changed its focus to explore play and the ways in which it encourages learning, creativity and discovery and illuminates cultural history.

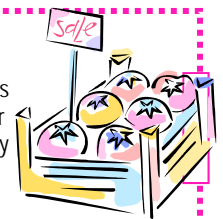
Henry Alvah Strong and Homer Strong were, in genealogical terms, second cousins twice removed. Another way of saying it is that Henry Alvah Strong was the second cousin of Homer Strong's grandfather, Harmon Vedder Strong. Or that Homer Strong was the fourth cousin of Henry Alvah Strong's grandchildren.



Margaret Woodbury Strong in her garden. (Courtesy of The Strong, Rochester, New York)

Looking for fresh produce?

Visit the South Wedge Farmers' Market, on Thursdays from 4-8PM, at 100 Alexander Street, behind Boulder Coffee Co. www.SWfarmersmarket.org lists weekly specials and entertainment. Support your local growers...."Grow Local, Eat Local"



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Canal Path Clean-Up Seeks Volunteers

The UMHN Association has “adopted” a stretch of the canal path, and the next scheduled clean-up will be held on **Tuesday, August 16th**, beginning at **6:30pm**. We will work for about one hour. Please bring gloves and wear a brightly colored shirt. You may bring your own tools – loppers, clippers, brooms, rakes, etc. Additional tools will be provided.

We will meet at the parking lot, near the exercise station, at the corner of Westmoreland and Kendrick Roads, across from the Ronald McDonald House. Refreshments will be served.

Call **Sue Schickler** with questions at 473-1159 or Irvington@umhn.com

Can't make this one? Our last clean-up for the season will be in the fall; check our web site for details.



Open Drum Circle Featured at National Night Out

This group will be entertaining everyone at our upcoming **National Night Out** on **August 2**. Come to the park at 6:30pm to experience the unique music of an open drum circle.

The group organizer, **David Schwartz**, says, "In the **Open Drum Circle of Rochester**, you can meet other local hand drummers, percussionists, and other kinds of musicians interested in playing in drum circles. Experience and ownership of equipment aren't required, as we encourage


sharing and mutual respect. Sessions might occasionally include instruction and technique before open circles start."

For more information, go to

<http://www.meetup.com/drumcircle-rochester>



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Safety Reminders from Officer Bannerman

Crime Prevention Officer, Brian Bannerman



We like to think our neighborhood is a relatively safe one, but incidents do happen every now and then. Officer Bannerman consistently says, “If something looks or sounds suspicious, call 911.” We would like to remind our

neighbors of some steps to take to prevent or discourage criminal events:

- **Keep your doors locked at all times.** Never open your door to a stranger without first identifying them. Legitimate callers will be able to provide identification and will NOT take offense to your asking to see it. Scam artists will often appear friendly and courteous to gain your trust.
- **NEVER give cash to a solicitor.** Persons soliciting for a charity will be happy to take a check, or better yet, provide you with a contact phone number to call and arrange a donation.
- **Be skeptical of “get rich quick” schemes,** secret deals or any offer that requires you to turn over large sums of money before you get what is promised.
- **Don’t be rushed into a deal.** Never sign any contract until you and your lawyer, banker or other expert has read it thoroughly.
- **Trust your instincts.** If something seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- **Don’t be taken in by a stranger’s “sob story.”** Many scam artists will play on your good nature and desire to help someone in need. Common scams in the city include:
 - **“My car ran out of gas, can I borrow some money to fill this gas can?”** People who really run out of gas call for roadside assistance or call a friend or family member for help.
 - **“I need money for food” or “I will work for food.”** There are many social programs that provide food to those in need. A person who is really willing to work for food would probably have a job and money to buy their own food. It is much more likely that your money will feed their addiction to drugs or alcohol. A call to 911 will allow police to steer this person toward the nearest food kitchen.

- **“I need money for my baby’s medicine.”** If someone really has a child who needs medical attention, 911 is the fastest and most certain way to get them what they need; the Family Crisis Team will get them genuine aid.
- **“I’m going door-to-door cleaning gutters”** (or shoveling driveways, or raking leaves). Legitimate contractors don’t solicit door-to-door. Also keep in mind that these door-to-door workers will not carry insurance, which means that you will be liable for any injury they sustain while on your property.

BASIC CRIME DETERRENTS:

- Report to 911 immediately all suspicious activity such as persons loitering, going door-to-door, or the sound of glass breaking.
- Report any attempt to break into your house or garage, such as cuts on your window screens near the locks.
- Keep your doors, windows and garages locked when not at home; even when in the yard or at a neighbors.
- Install and use deadbolts locks on all exterior doors.
- Notify a trusted neighbor when you are going to be away.
- Discontinue newspaper delivery when going on vacation.
- Keep outside lights on all night, or use motion sensor lights all around your home.
- Trim shrubs to deny burglars a hiding place, especially around windows.
- Lock up ladders and trash totes where they cannot be used by a burglar.
- Don’t leave returnable cans in the recycle bin.
- Never open your door for a stranger.

Please don’t hesitate to call 911 for any suspicious activity.

It’s better to call and report something, and let the officers check it out, than to let it go unreported, and **regret it later**. If you have further questions for Officer Bannerman, you can contact him at 428-7647.

Mark's Park: Mission Accomplished

by Irma Abu-Jumah

Since 2007 a small group of neighbors, led by Cindy Knox and Irma Abu-Jumah, have been working every Saturday morning (in fair weather) to convert a once wild and dangerous area into a peaceful and beautiful public flower garden called **Mark's Park**. In the summer of 2008, a group of volunteers from *Daimler Buses North America*, located in Oriskany, NY, built the bridge as one of their community projects. Hundreds of spring bulbs have been planted and they blossom every year for everybody's enjoyment. We have created flower beds, built stone benches and formed a beautiful shade garden.

Clean Sweep 2011 marked the last work on Mark's Park recovery. Now Mark's Park is a visually open area, discouraging crime and unwanted activity. Our work is done and **we are very proud of it**. Now it is just a matter of maintaining it once a month to prevent the area from becoming wild again. One final item remains on our agenda, and that's getting water service for the park, which is only possible with the help of an adjacent neighbor.

UMHN gardeners would like to thank Nancy Johns-Price and Michael W. Thomas from the Southeast Neighborhood Service Center for coordinating the delivery of compost for our garden. The

Rochester City Forestry Department is thanked for their constant help and unconditional dedication. To our loyal gardening friends and companions: Aaron McGowan, April Younglove, Byron Wilmot, Carol Baumeister, Dan Hurley, Judy Day, Maggie McGrath, Nancy Rice and the Tyndall Family - Larry, Mary, Patrick and Lawrence Jr. -we say **"thank you."** Thanks to all for your dedication to this neighborhood project!

Now **UMHN** Gardeners will take it easy (at the request of our sore backs). We are encouraging new UMHN members to step up and help to keep this area safe and clean. Come over, sit on the benches, rest and meditate. If you're moved to do so, don't hesitate to pull a few weeds. That's all it takes...one hand at a time. It is for **YOUR** good, for **YOUR** family and for **YOUR** neighborhood.



1. Our lilacs look better than ever with a clean trim and mulched bed.
2. The old apple tree is now a nest for gorgeous orange day lilies.
3. April and Irma putting compost in flower beds, while Judy cleans and mulches the lilies.
4. Hundreds of daffodils now bloom every spring.
5. Our shade garden looks great.
6. City Forestry personnel helping to keep Mark's Park trees in good shape.

Harbor House Benefits from Sweet Sixteens

by Joan G. Malley

Three girls who volunteered at the Harbor House (a hospital hospitality house for adults) last summer decided to put a different twist on their Sweet 16 Birthday Party. **Abbey Leonardi, Maddie Thomas and Maggie Doran** all turned 16 in May, 2011. They decided to have a joint celebration with their friends at **Max at High Falls**. There were roughly 75 friends in attendance. Instead of presents, they asked their friends to bring a donation for the Harbor House of Rochester. They raised an amazing **\$1,800!** When asked why they decided to do this the girls replied, *“Just having the party with our friends is enough for us. We saw firsthand how the Harbor House helps families and we wanted to find a way to help out.”*

It’s amazing to me the amount of teenagers we have had step forward and set up different fundraisers or donation drives. One teen who attended culinary classes organized an entire Pig Roast to benefit Harbor House. It was held in May and was very successful. We have had teens organize drives for household items such as paper goods, cleaning supplies, laundry and toiletry items. In today’s tough economy not-for-profit organizations are feeling the crunch. These types of fundraisers are a welcome boost to the bottom line and have really made a huge difference.

You don’t have to be a teen to help out. Adults are welcome too. If you have a great idea on how to help the Harbor House, please feel free to call me or send me a note via our website: www.harborhouseofrochester.org anytime to discuss it. Every contribution is a big help and gratefully accepted!

We are also currently seeking committee chairs and committee members to work on our 2012 major fundraiser **“And the Beat Goes On”** to be held June 9, 2012.

If you’re interested, e-mail **Joan Malley** at: harborhouseofrochester@gmail.com

OUR CURRENT WISH LIST:

We’re in short supply of:

- **Keurig Coffee Singles** – these are great for people when they come back late at night or leave early or want coffee when a full pot isn’t needed.
- **Paper towels**- the house has been nearly 100% occupied and we run out of these quickly!
- **Lysol or Clorox wipes**
- **Fresh fruit**
- **Laundry detergent, bleach, dryer sheets**

For a complete list check out our website:

www.harborhouseofrochester.org

Donations are accepted weekdays from 9am-4pm or by special arrangement – call 585-473-1779.

Have a New Neighbor?

If you are aware of someone who has recently moved into a house or apartment near you, please share with us the street address of that person. You may contact us at umhn@umhn.com We would like to drop off a **hard copy** of our newsletter to them so they are aware of our organization and the opportunities we have in our neighborhood.

Once they know about us, they can opt to receive information electronically. We need your help to spread the word about **UMHN**.

Thank you!





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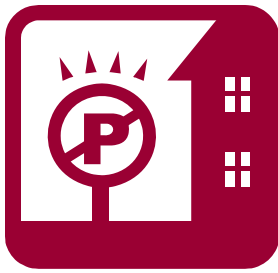
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Permit Parking for our Neighborhood?

Would you like to see a reduction in the parked cars along Eastmoreland and other streets in our neighborhood? Would you like to see a uniform parking plan for all streets in our neighborhood? The City of Rochester is working to change the parking regulations in the **Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood** into a **permit-only area**, similar to Corn Hill.

The **UMHN Parking Committee** has been working hard on devising a plan to aid the City with this change. The Committee is comprised of representatives from the neighborhood, the Business Association, Erik Frisch, Transportation Specialist in Environmental Services, and RPD - Parking Enforcement.

Elmerston, Edgemont and Eastmoreland Roads experience an overwhelming number of parked cars during the workday. This causes a major inconvenience to residents, and often creates dangerous intersections. Parking is not permitted on streets nearest to the medical campus, however residents on those streets often see illegally parked cars, while car owners ignore the “no parking” regulations.

The proposed permit parking would restrict parking from **8:00 am - 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday**, allowing only those cars with permits to park on the designated

side. The Corn Hill Neighborhood experienced a similar problem with commuters who worked downtown and parked their cars in that neighborhood. They now have a permit parking program. The area of enforcement in our area would stretch from Westmoreland/Westfall to Elmwood, and from South Avenue to Kendrick. Only residents/homeowners within the district would be able to purchase permits to park vehicles on the street between the hours of 8 and 5. Alternate side parking would still apply.



A fee of **\$20.** per year, would give homeowners a total of **3 permits.** Residents only need to purchase a permit if they want to park on the street during the day. Residents who choose to not purchase permits would still have to abide by the parking regulations, and could not park on the street during the day. Cars without permits will be ticketed.

What do you think?

Please send your comments, questions and opinions to **UMHN.** This change will require an act of the State Legislature, and we would like to implement any changes as quickly as possible.



Please send your comments to:
Parking@UMHN.com

“Recreation on the Move” Coming to Our Neighborhood Park

Hey kids... get ready for some summer fun. The **Recreation on the Move (ROTM)** vehicle is a mobile recreation center that brings games, activities, sports, arts and crafts, and healthy snacks to City neighborhoods, and it’s coming to **OUR neighborhood!** This is a great way for youth to engage in healthy activities with City recreation staff. There are activities for all ages.

What does Rec on the Move offer? The **ROTM** vehicle and its engaging staff bring recreation and much more to neighborhoods:

- Sports, games, and other exercise/physical activities
- Health and wellness activities and information
- Homework help and tutoring
- Fresh, healthy food

- Arts, music, and cultural activities
- Environmental education and horticulture activities
- Information about City Recreation Centers and youth programs, libraries, and other City facilities and services... And more!

When will it be in our neighborhood? **ROTM** will be at Eastmoreland Park at the neighborhood playground on Tuesday, August 2 through Friday, August 5, from 2 to 6pm each day. The van will stay until 8:30pm on Tuesday for our **UMHN National Night Out** celebration. *Don’t miss this exciting opportunity...* mark your calendars now!

To read more about Recreation on the Move, visit the City’s web site: www.cityofrochester.gov/reconthemove