



Spring Newsletter

Contact the Board

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Board Members at Large

Matt Alexander (Harvard St)
Dave Burnet (Harvard St)
Jim Hondorf (Harvard St)
Lorrie Lorson (Colby St)
George Lorson (Colby St)

ABC Streets N.A. General Membership Meetings Now Held Four Times Yearly!

Members voted to hold our General Membership Meetings four times a year. Our two remaining meetings are scheduled for:

**July
October**

Meetings begin @ 6:30 p.m.
1600 East Avenue
Basement Conference Room
Social: 7:30-8:00 p.m.
Light refreshments served
Members & non-members welcome!
Watch emails and website for date announcements!

Home Maintenance for Spring

... by George Lorson

Hear any robins chirping outside your window? Seen any tulips and crocus popping up in your garden? Spring is finally on the way and the ABC Neighborhood Association has a few Home Maintenance tips for all of our neighbors.

- While the ground is still moist, gently pick up the sod that the sidewalk plow has deposited on your lawn, lay it back in place and press it firmly into place with your feet, so that it can begin to grow again before it dries out.
- Gently begin to clean your flower beds before the bulbs and perennials are too far out of the ground. Use care when raking the leaves out of the bed, so you don't knock the buds off of the plants-otherwise, they won't bloom.
- When raking your lawn to remove the dead grass, if you encounter any spots where the grass has died over the winter, loosen up the soil and apply a generous amount of grass seed and a small amount of fertilizer. Work the mixture into the soil and cover the area with straw or burlap to help retain the moisture.
- When turning on your outside water faucet, check the faucet and shutoff for leaks. Tighten the packing nuts with a crescent wrench if necessary.
- Inspect your hoses and spray attachments for leaks. It may sometimes be less expensive and frustrating to buy a new hose or spray attachment, rather than trying to repair old, worn-out equipment.
- If you encounter grubs when working in your garden or lawn, "capture" one in a zip lock bag and take it to your local garden store for identification and proper grub control material recommendations. Read the application instructions carefully and follow all directions on bag.
- If you suspect your lawn needs a little "boost" to make it green and lush, contact your local garden store for the proper fertilization materials and procedures. Again, read all instructions and directions on package.
- Inspect your lawnmower before starting it up for the first time. First, disconnect the spark plug wire. Using a putty knife, clean out all of the dead grass in the housing and chute. Check the blade to be sure it is sharp. If it is not, remove it and have it sharpened properly at a local hardware store. When re-installing it, be sure the bolts are very tight! Check your spark plug to be sure it is in good condition and not caked with carbon. You will need a special "spark plug wrench" to remove the plug. If you need a new spark plug, take the old one with you to the hardware store to insure you purchase a compatible one-otherwise your mower may not run smoothly. Check your oil level and if it is dark and dirty, drain it and refill the crankcase with new oil (as recommended by the hardware store). Do not overfill, as this will harm your engine. Be sure you reconnect the spark plug wire before you try to start the mower.
- Inspect all your garden tools to be sure they are in good shape after being put away last Fall. Be sure there are no broken handles or loose attachments that need to be replaced or tightened. Check all your pruning shears to be sure they're sharp. If your tools are defective, check with your local hardware store for replacement items to make your spring work more enjoyable. If your shears need sharpening, take them to the hardware store to have them properly sharpened

We hope these tips have been useful and remember that Spring is just around the corner and your flowers will soon be in bloom!



Have You Paid Your 2011 Membership Dues?

Your membership dues help to pay for printing of this Newsletter, website upkeep and fees, our Summer Picnic and various other activities throughout the year. Checks to be made payable to ABC Streets Neighborhood Association and can be mailed or dropped off to our **Treasurer, Maureen Duggan @ 30 Audubon Street** (we also accept PayPal-visit our website @ www.abcstreets.org for PayPal payment info).
....see page 8 for Membership Form...



ABC STREETS ≧CLEAN SWEEP≦

Saturday, May 21
9:00 a.m.-noon

The annual *Clean Sweep* in our area of the city is scheduled for **Saturday, May 21st**.

Take **pride in YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD** and come join neighbors in cleaning up accumulated debris and trash covered up by the long and harsh winter!

Meet us @ Morrison Park @ 9:00 a.m. to help spruce up our streets & Morrison Park!

We'll get together after all our hard work for hot dogs & beverages at Dave & Irene Burnet's house @ 929 Harvard Street.

Great way to meet your neighbors and keep us all neat & tidy!

Let's STICKer Together!

What began as a suggestion by neighbor, **Jay Cunningham** of Harvard Street, has come full circle, with the help and collaboration of our neighbor and Councilmember-at-Large, **Matt Haag** and the City of Rochester. For this pilot program, approximately 1,000 of these **STICKers** were printed and are being distributed with this Newsletter, in an effort to help deter can & bottle collection in our neighborhood.



STICKers were also handed out to attendees at our October 2010 and April 2011 General Membership meetings. Please affix your sticker to your wheeled trash tote or recycle bin!



It's Picnic Time!

Saturday, August 20, 2011
Annual ABC Streets Summer Picnic!

After a successful tryout last year, we will again hold our ABC Streets Neighborhood Summer Picnic on Calumet Street. Calumet will be closed for vehicular traffic from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., to allow neighbors to wander in throughout the day to enjoy neighbors, food, beverages, raffles, etc. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date. We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers to help out, whether it is in planning, set-up, clean-up, etc.

Watch for upcoming details on our website @
<http://www.abcstreets.org>

Park Avenue Festival

No Parking Signs

During last year's festival, the Park Ave Merchants Association was kind enough to supply us with some NO PARKING signs. There were only two of us putting them up, so we didn't get to every street, but feedback from those that DID have the signs (A, B & C streets) was positive. Signs are taped over existing parking signs and are in effect from Friday evening through Sunday evening during the festival. Simply stated, beginning Friday evening (through Sunday @ 6:00 p.m.) parking is allowed on only one side of the street for the entire weekend. These easy-to-read signs alleviate congestion and illegal parking. We'd LOVE to get one or two volunteers from each street to help put these up! You'll need a step ladder and a roll of masking tape. If you can volunteer for your street, contact Marianne @ 781-4950 or mpastecki@aol.com

Have a new neighbor or tenant moving in? Contact **George or Lorrie Lorson** to have a **Welcome Packet** delivered! Includes a map of nearby Park Avenue businesses, recent neighborhood Newsletter, helpful city ordinance info and a Neighborhood Association Membership form.

Llorson23@rochester.rr.com

The ABC Streets Boundaries include:

The east side of Culver Road (between Harvard & Park), Park Avenue (beginning @ east side of Culver Road and continuing to East Ave), Audubon, Beverly, Calumet, Colby, Darwin, Ericsson, Faraday, Girard, Harvard & Homer

Upcoming City Events

April 27-May 2: 360/365 Film Festival (George Eastman House)
May 1: Flower City Challenge-Wegmans Family 5K; Flower City Challenge-Flower City Half Marathon
May 8, 15, 22, 27, 29, 30: Flower Days @ Public Market 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
May 8: Breast Cancer Coalition of Rochester 10th Annual Pink Ribbon Run & Family Fitness Walk
May 14-22: Lilac Festival
May 14: Lilac Parade (South Avenue & Elmwood) 10:00 a.m.
May 20: Rochester Blossoms & Perennial Swap
May 21: Great Strides Walk (*benefits Cystic Fibrosis Foundation*)
May 22: Upper Monroe & Swillburg Bicycle Boulevard Ride
May 27-30: RoC City Ribfest
May 29: Operation Patriot Trot with Troops
May 30: Memorial Day Parade

For more details and events, visit: www.cityofrochester.gov/events

Message from the President . . .

...by Tom Hasman

Hello everyone. Welcome to another edition of the Newsletter. This is the "spring" newsletter but if the cold had lasted any longer, I was thinking we would have to rename it the "extended winter newsletter." I'm happy that the warmer weather has finally arrived and we can now end our winter hibernation and see each other in our yards and while walking around the neighborhood.

I'm a BIG FAN of the Newsletter. In the age of the internet, with iPads and mobile smart phones, it is still nice to hold a real piece of paper sometimes (I get the D&C at my door seven days a week and enjoy reading the newspaper while eating breakfast). This Newsletter is delivered to all 600 households that encompass our neighborhood association. I hope you enjoy reading about all the things we have going on in the neighborhood (including a Phase II rollout for a sign/sculpture at Morrison Park and our Look Who's 100 House Plaque offering).

Please also take a look at the ads in this newsletter. You may have noticed that we have many first-time sponsors. Our sponsors pay money for their ads, which helps to reduce our cost for printing of the newsletters. They are trusting their advertising dollars with us. Please **show your support by shopping at these establishments whenever possible!**

Many of our sponsors are located in our neighborhood, so it's easy and convenient to access their services and products. Be sure to mention to them that you saw their ad in the ABC Streets Neighborhood Association Newsletter, so they know that their money is well invested! That is, we (their neighbors) have seen their ad and are rewarding their support with our business.

This month also brings us an election, where every ABC Streets board position is up for another two-year term. I want to thank my fellow board members: *Vice President and Newsletter editor, Marianne Pastecki; Treasurer and Membership Director, Maureen Duggan, Secretary Kevin Hamblin* and "at large" members: **Jim Hondorf, Dave Burnet, George & Lorrie Lorson and Matt Alexander** for helping me out for the past two years. With their leadership, the association has accomplished a lot, including the first major revamp of Morrison Park, the launching of new website and the creation of an ABC Streets "Welcome Packet" that is distributed to new neighbors. I also want to thank *YOU-all of our neighbors* -for supporting the association through paid memberships and coming out to our community and social events. We have approximately 130 member families and I hope we can continue to increase that number.

So, if you are not a member, please take a few minutes to fill out the Membership Form on page 8 and join us! If you have not yet paid your 2011 membership dues, please consider renewing!

I look forward to seeing everyone around the neighborhood this spring & summer. Abigail is now 14 months and loves riding in the wagon with Sam. We've already been to the playground @ School #1 a few times and the kids love the wagon ride almost as much as the playground!

Landlord Liaison

...by Matt Alexander

Hello Neighbors! My Name is **Matt Alexander**, and I am the newest member of the ABC Streets Board, after joining in December, 2010.

I am compiling a list of known landlords in our neighborhood. I am asking that neighbors send an email to malexander1@rochester.rr.com with contact information for landlords for properties near you or your own landlord. I anticipate having a get together with landlords, so that we can let them know what **we expect from them** and what **they can expect** from the neighborhood. If any neighbors have issues with landlords, tenants or other neighbors, please contact me at the above email address and I will follow up on the issue(s).

At the beginning of the year, we had a few burglaries in the neighborhood. Luckily, with the help of some **very alert neighbors**, we were able to track down a gentleman acting very suspiciously. Although he was not arrested, the RPD did impound his vehicle and he was escorted out of the neighborhood. We still **all need to be ALERT neighbors!** The RPD has provided some helpful tips:

- Call **911 immediately** when you see something suspicious. If your "gut" is telling you something is out of sorts, don't hesitate to call **911**.
- Let your neighbors know when you are heading out of town. Have them park in your driveway, pick up mail and newspapers and walk the property throughout your vacation.
- **Lock all doors and windows on the first floor** when leaving your home unattended (even if just for a brief period of time).

I look forward to serving on the Board and ask that you contact me with any issues that may arise.

YOUR AD could have been here!

Contact: mpastecki@aol.com

**Have You Visited the New
ABC Streets Neighborhood Association Website?**

...by Dave Burnet

If you would like to post a *personal event* on the site, *i.e.*, charity event, neighborhood happening, have a contractor you'd like to recommend to your neighbors (or one that should be avoided!), send an email with 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

Grant Awarded for Morrison Park

...by Jim Hondorf

While the temperature hasn't warmed up yet, you may have noticed signs of spring coming out of the ground at Morrison Park! The 200 Allium bulbs planted last fall have begun to emerge from the ground. Here are a few updates on Morrison Park and other events in our neighborhood.

- **Clean Sweep** is on **May 21st** this year. It is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and clean up our neighborhood. In addition to cleaning the neighborhood, we will be spreading a fresh layer of mulch in the park. We will meet at the park @ 9:00 a.m.. The city will provide brooms, garbage bags, gloves, etc., and we will have mulch delivered for the park. Feel free to bring your garden tools to help us in the park. Please send an email to: abc.streets@gmail.com if you can help out. RSVP's are not mandatory, but does help give us an estimate on how many volunteers to expect.
- This summer, we will be starting **Phase II** of the Morrison Park renovation. I am happy to announce that we have received a **\$1,500 grant** from the **Rochester Area Community Foundation (RACF)** to fund a neighborhood sign and/or sculpture at the park. We are seeking proposals/ideas from the neighborhood on what sign or sculpture you'd like to see added to Morrison Park. Please email us your ideas at abc.streets@gmail.com

Become a Member!

If you would like to renew your membership (or become a new member) in the Neighborhood Association, you can mail or drop-off dues to our **Treasurer, Maureen Duggan** at **30 Audubon Street**.

Checks should be made payable to **ABC Streets Neighborhood Association**. (see *Membership Form* on page 8)

House Plaques

.....by Marianne Pastecki



SHOW YOUR AGE!

Many of the houses in the ABC Streets are turning 100 years old!

Our first shipment of house plaques has arrived and our thanks to all of you who ordered and participated in our first order.

A small ceremony to present plaques *is tentatively scheduled* at Morrison Park during Clean Sweep Day. Please watch for details during the weekly email announcements.

Contact mpastecki@aol.com if interested in being included in our next order.

And Now a Word From Our Sponsors!

We'd like to thank all of the businesses who have advertised with us! You'll notice many **new advertisers** in this Newsletter and we ask that you show your appreciation and support by visiting their establishments or giving them a call when the need for their area of expertise or products arise!



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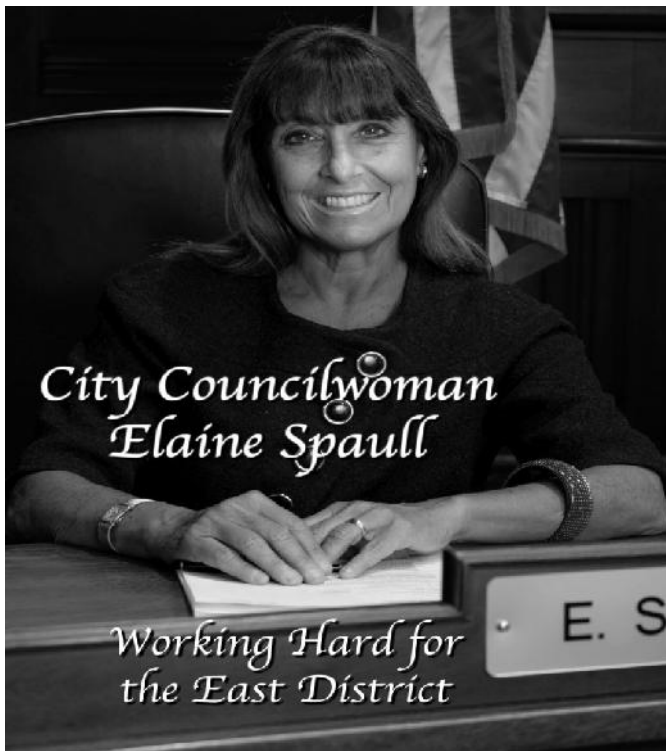
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Closing the Budget Gap Share your ideas with us.

Valuing Customer Feedback



Join Mayor Thomas Richards and City staff as we ask for your input in the City's efforts to reduce a \$50 m budget gap.

You are a valuable component of our planning process as we develop Rochester's 2011/12 budget.

Dates and Locations – 6 pm start time

Wednesday, April 27
South Ave. Community Center
999 South Avenue

Thursday, April 28
Adams St. Community Center
85 Adams Street

Wednesday, April 20
David F. Gant Community Ctr.
700 North Street

Monday, May 2
Edgerton Stardust Ballroom
41 Backus Street

Discussion topics: Public Safety • Improving infrastructure • Proper use of resources • Youth and recreation • Library services • Organizational efficiencies • Workforce excellence • Fiscal accountability • Shared services

Read a primer on the City's budget shortfall at www.cityofrochester.gov/budgetgap

Questions? Call 311
Outside the City, call 428-5990





Join/Renew Your Membership in the ABC Streets Neighborhood Association

Membership is only \$5 for renters and \$10 for homeowners. Membership includes free admission to all neighborhood association social events. Your dues also help fund association activities, such as printing newsletters, maintaining our website, upkeep of Morrison Park and providing food and supplies for our summer picnic and winter holiday party.

Please return completed form and payment to: Maureen Duggan at 30 Audubon Street

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Email:** _____

Year Moved into Neighborhood: _____ **Renter (\$5)** **Homeowner (\$10)**

New Member **Returning Member**

I can help by: **Volunteering @ Events** **Delivering Newsletters** **Serving on the Board**

Other _____



Referral for Membership

I would like to nominate the following neighbor for membership:

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____ **Email:** _____

Membership Dues Enclosed

Treasurer Should Contact