Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association

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(507) 244-1898 email:mlaplante@aol.com Motto:neighbors helping neighbors, vecinos ayudando a vecinos
Website:www.espna.us

News from our partners Family Services Rochester

Thanks to everyone who completed the survey in the last newsletter. Some completed it on-line, some mailed it in, others talked with the University of MN Rochester students and volunteers who came door to door**. 80% of people surveyed stand ready to volunteer!** Now that's a fabulous neighborhood!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors focuses on tasks that seniors and persons with disabilities need done to make living at home a bit easier. These tasks include lawn mowing and yard work, computer trouble-shooting, gutter and window cleaning, shopping/running errands, transportation to appointments/church, friendly visiting, pet care and much more.

Need any of these done to make your life easier? Call Family Service Rochester who coordinates Neighbors Helping Neighbors; at 507-287-2010.

Caring for an elderly person and need a break? You don't need to do it alone-- Call Family Service Rochester who coordinates Neighbors Helping Neighbors; 507-287-2010.

The Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association (ESPNA) is currently partnering with Family Services Rochester (FSR) in a neighborhood effort to help seniors and persons with disabilities remain independent and in their own homes.

Sixth and Seventh Avenues SE Neighborhood Party

The Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association (ESPNA) and Family Services Rochester (FSR) are co-sponsoring a neighborhood potluck picnic for the Sixth and Seventh Avenues SE neighborhood on Saturday, May 30 from 11 AM – 1 PM. The picnic will be held at the Residence of Old Town Hall, 607 East Center Street. Adjoining residents in the 600-700 block of East Center near the Residence of Old Town Hall are also invited. Roscoe's BBQ will provide the barbecue.

We are going with a picnic for a small area of the ESPNA neighborhood, Sixth and Seventh Avenues SE, for now, with future plans for a larger effort encompassing the whole neighborhood.

For more information contact Mike LaPlante at 507.244.1898 or at mlaplante@aol.com

Summer Neighborhood Meetings

The Boys & Girls Club will be changing their hours for the summer. They will be closing at 6:00 PM starting in June.

The Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Assn. summer meetings will be held at 7 PM at the St. Francis Parish Activity Center, 1114 3 St. SE.

Our guest speaker for the Thursday June 11 meeting will be Bob Mathias, Rehab. Program Coordinator for Rochester/Olmsted County. The subject -City of Rochester CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Program.

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Join us at 7:00 PM, Thursday June 11at the St. Francis Parish Activity Center, 1114 3 St. SE

Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings for July9 and August 13 will be at the St. Francis Parish Activity Center, 1114 3 St. SE at 7 PM.

Watch for more news from us via phone, e-mail, etc., or on the websites at Nextdoor or at www.espna.us

A few of the Litter-Bit-Better 2015 volunteers. From left to right are Peter and Mary Hartman, Deb Dukart and her grandchildren, McKenna and Gavin and Jammie McGuire and her sons, Conner and Finn

ESPNA volunteers, Deb Dukart, running, back to the table and Kimberly Yokiel, holding a cup of water and Derrick Hansen, at the water cooler at Water Stop F providing water and Gatorade for the Med-city Marathon runners.

A few assets that make this neighborhood a great place to live are: Honkers Games, the Farmer's Market, Summer Concerts in Mayo Park, Historical Cemetery Walk, Bike Paths, East Park, new park playgrounds, proximity to downtown, Quarry Hill and Silver Lake Park, the Boys and Girls Club, St. Francis School, Riverside Central school, a unique assortment of affordable homes, well established urban forest and friendly neighbors that care for the neighborhood and look after one another.

Litter-Bit-Better 2015

The Eastside Pioneers Neighborhood Association (ESPNA) kicked off our stewardship of both East and Mayo Parks by participating in Litter-Bit-Better week, April 18-25.

Volunteers took the opportunity to pick up bags of garbage in both East Park and Mayo Park. Many thanks goes out to the Dukart's, the Hartman's, the McGuire's, Pat Sheedy, Jennie Joa the LaPlante's, Helen Roland and more for all their efforts to keep our parks safe and clean.

The ESPNA also works on our Adopt-a-River section of Bear Creek/ Zumbro River during Litter-Bit–Better week.

ESPNA volunteers picked up 140 lbs. of litter along the river banks. A special thank you to Paul Scanlon, Kevin Fleming, Mary and Peter Hartman, and Mike LaPlante on that effort.

If you would like to help keep our neighborhood parks and river banks safe and clean please contact Mike LaPlante at 507.244.1898.

Med-City Marathon

The Med-City Marathon was held last Saturday and Sunday, May 23 and 24.

ESPNA volunteers helped at our neighborhood Water Stop, station F, which was located in East Park, just east of 15th Avenue NE, right next to the bike path leading to Quarry Hill.

Special thank you to the many volunteers that worked at our neighborhood water station on Sunday, May 24. Some of our volunteers included Deb and Greg Dukart, Derrick Hansen and his daughter Kimberly Yokiel, Matt Kerneler, Mike LaPlante, the Rochester Ham radio Club, medical personnel and many more. I apologize if I forgot to mention your names but a big heartfelt thank you to all who helped on Sunday.

If you are interested in future such events or have any questions or concerns please contact Mike LaPlante at 507.244.1898 or at mlaplante@aol.com

More Neighborhood News

The Rochester Police are seeing a spike in **bike thefts** and are warning people to keep their bikes locked up and secure. People are being urged to use high quality locks and to secure their bicycles as best as they can. Bike owners should record their serial numbers and take photos of their bikes in case they are stolen, to help police return them later in case stolen bikes are recovered. Register bike serial numbers at coptalklive.com

If you wish to report a theft or have information regarding the thefts contact Rochester Police at 507.328.6800.

Jeff Urban made a presentation about **Bear Creek Church Outreach** programs and the **Framing Hope Program** at our Thursday, April 9 meeting. They work together to help people that are financially challenged to make improvements to their homes. If you would like to learn more about the program contact Jeff Urban at jeff@bearchurch.org / 507.261.0720 or contact Mike LaPlante at 507.244.1898 or at mlaplante@aol.com

Interested in a **community garden plot**? They are $15 per plot. Contact Mary Jo Majerus at 507.261.7656.

There is a **Public Hearing on June 1** at the City Council Chambers at 7 PM regarding a proposed 4 story apartment complex along 6th Ave SE/Mayo Park Dr. in the ESPNA. Questions? Call Mike at 244-1898.