

Maplewood Messenger

Volume 2 Issue 1

DEWEY AVENUE - The Spine of Maplewood

When one thinks about the busy thoroughfare now known as Dewey Avenue running within the heart of Maplewood, one could think about how long it is. Starting at Lyell Avenue and running north all the way to Edgemere Drive near Lake Ontario, it was once a patchwork of various streets which were eventually connected.

The City map from 1888 shows that the road running north from Lyell Ave. used to be named West Street. It didn't go very far since it was cut off by the huge parcel of land known as the State Industrial School which started at the intersection of Bloss and Backus and ran due west all the way to the Erie Canal and north to a point just before Emerson Street.

The canal was in operation in this area until 1918-1921 before it was relocated well to the south in order to provide a better traffic pattern within the City.

The future Dewey Avenue resumed at Emerson and ran north to Driving Park Avenue but not as Dewey. It was Thrush Street, named for a bird as so many other streets in the area at the time were named. Thrush terminated at the property of the Rochester Driving Park, a large parcel of land which was used for horse racing, bicycle competitions, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and other events used for entertaining the public.

Editor:
Kimberly VanDerWal

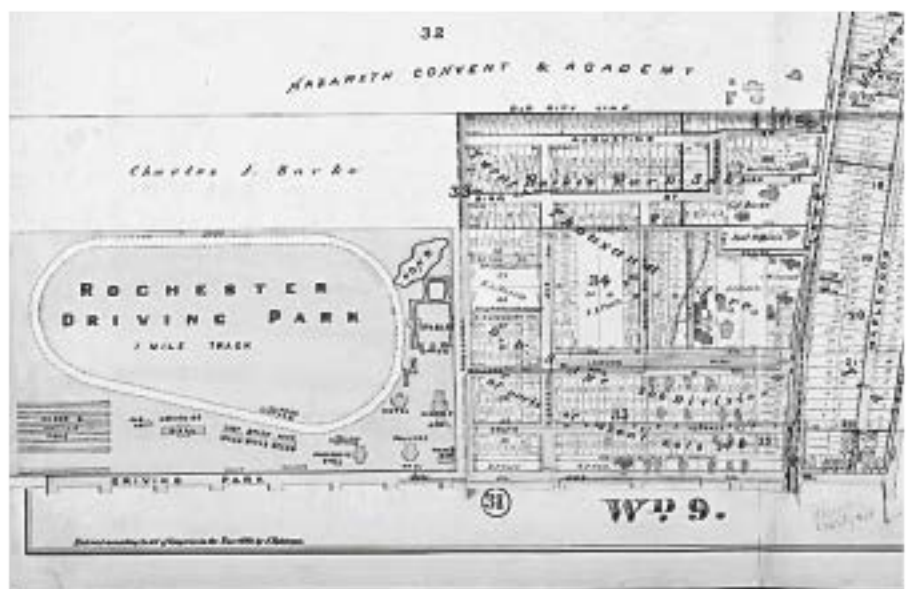
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The parcel ran from the railroad on the west, a former City boundary, east to a street running north from Driving Park listed as Boulevard and then north to a point between Bryan and Birr Streets. The width of the race course prevented Thrush and Boulevard from aligning properly; hence the troublesome 'jog' which caused headaches for years until the City smoothed out the intersection recently.

Boulevard itself ran north to where it was blocked by the land owned by Nazareth Convent and Academy, the future Aquinas Institute. The parcel ran from Lake on the east to the railroad tracks on the west.

North of the Nazareth property Boulevard resumed again to cross Lake Avenue Park, the future Seneca Parkway, but it ended yet again 164 feet to the north, blocked by the A. A. Vanderbeck farm which also ran from Lake to the railroad. By the way, people living in the area referred to the street as The Boulevard.



The neighborhood of Driving Park Avenue and what is now Dewey Avenue (then the Boulevard) featuring the Rochester Driving Park. From: City of Rochester Plat Map, 1888.

Message from the President

Some good news to pass along to our members:

-Our Northwest City Council member Jose Peo was able to get Maplewood a grant for \$1000.00 from City Council to enable the MNA to expand its membership. Thanks Jose!

-Reconnect Rochester wrote a request to the City for a pedestrian-activated Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon to be installed where the Genesee River Trail crosses Driving Park, to make crossing there safer for residents and trail users. We just learned that the County DOT engineers approved that request! That RRFB will be installed in the coming months.

-The MNA Board welcomes two new Board members- Cheryl Giacherio and Jim Best! Welcome to both of you! If any Maplewood resident is interested in becoming a Board member and helping to improve Maplewood, please let me know at a Town Hall meeting or email me at president@maplewood.org.

-Jim was a past president of the MNA, as was also a former member of the City's Zoning Board of Appeals. He's agreed to chair the MNA's Zoning and Code Enforcement Committee going forward- thanks Jim!

I hope many of you set some time aside on June 24th to visit the beautiful gardens on the MNA Garden tour. Your neighbors put in a lot of hours of work to make their gardens worthy of viewing, and we hope you'll reward them by stopping and checking them out!

-Bill Collins
Acting President

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That was it. North of Vanderbeck's land two other streets were laid out, Flour City Park, (now Flower) and Big Ridge Road, which is now Ridgeway. To the north were the lands of Mary Knickerbocker which also ran from Lake to the railroad. Boulevard didn't cross those two streets. The northern line of the Knickerbocker property was also the border between Rochester and Greece.

Housing in 1888? The number of structures for living on Boulevard was nil. The future Seneca Pkwy. had three, all on the north side near Lake Ave, Thrush had eight between Glenwood and Rowe (Lexington).

The City was the place to live in those days. Water, sewer, transportation, jobs, etc. Hence, most of the houses were closest to Lake Avenue and farther south towards the city center.

The Spanish-American War had an impact within our area. A bona fide hero emerged, Commodore George Dewey. Dewey was credited with a huge victory over the Spanish by defeating their Navy at Manila Bay in the Philippines with the loss of only one of his men due to a heart attack.

MNA MISSION

The Maplewood Neighborhood Association is your organization representing our neighborhood in dealings with City Hall, Monroe County and the State of NY. Our goal is to plan for our community as a diverse and vibrant neighborhood celebrate the strengths and creativity of the residents, encourage home ownership and the residential character of the neighborhood, and represent our interests in decisions that affect our neighborhood.



The Rochester Common Council bestowed his name, possibly in 1899, on Boulevard. During that same year the Rochester Common Council, the members of who were interested in combining street names, changed West Street, Thrush Street and Dewey Avenue to Dewey Street on March 1, 1899. Eventually they changed 'street' back to avenue. (West had been pushed through to Emerson and Dewey had made it through the various blockages and had taken its present route.

In 1900 there were only three houses on Dewey between Driving Park and Ridgeway, but by 1910, with the demise of the former Driving Park Race Track property, Dewey Avenue now had twenty-eight houses in the same stretch.

The race track property was cut into 520 lots along with a huge industrial property at the west end, along the railroad right of way.

By 1935 virtually every lot along Dewey Avenue, except for the parcels for Aquinas, #7 School and a couple of churches, had either a house or commercial building on it.

Where does the MNA hold its meetings? Why, at the Aquinas Institute, along the spine of Maplewood!

Maplewood Garden Walk 2023

June 24th 10 am-4 pm

Maplewood Garden Walk 2023 will showcase a variety of private gardens, our community gardens and the Maplewood Rose Garden. Several locations will feature live music and Dave's Sidewalk Cafe will be onsite for lunch. Come and enjoy the beauty of Maplewood!



Maps available day of event at Maplewood Rose Garden or at maplewood.org.

Contact info@maplewood.org or 585-647-3186 or 585-967-9868.

Artist: Jodie Traugott

Graphic Designer: Kimberly VanDerWal



The Newsletter of the Maplewood Neighborhood Association

2021 Maplewood Garden Walk



www.maplewood.org

2023 MAPLEWOOD GARDEN WALK

Maplewood Garden Walk 2023 is scheduled for Saturday June 24 from 10-4. The Garden Walk Committee is still looking for homeowners to sign up their gardens for the tour. Deadline for garden walk participation is June 5. The Garden Walk will showcase a variety of front yards, backyards and side gardens along with several community pocket gardens and the nationally recognized Maplewood Rose Garden. Music and a food truck will also be part of the event. Come and enjoy the beauty of Maplewood and marvel in the work of the neighbors to beautify their homes.

This event is free and open to the public. Contact Barb Ann Kupiec at rochbarbann@yahoo.com (preferred) or call 647-3186 or cell 585-647-3186 for questions. Please notify your neighbors of the event and ask if any of them would also like to be on the tour. Map and garden description will be available at Rose Garden on day of event and also on the <http://www.maplewood.org> webpage on day of event.

Barb Ann Kupiec
MNA Garden Walk Chairwoman



Pictures from 2021 garden walk



Pictures from 2021 garden walk



Maplewood Neighborhood - Rochester, NY
Jul 29, 2021

HISTORIC MAPLEWOOD MARKER CEREMONY

On Saturday May 5, 2023 there was a ceremony at the west corner of Lake Avenue and Seneca Parkway. A Historic Marker, designating the area as part of Rochester's Historical District, was installed. Stop by and see the new sign!



Rochester will be 'first in line' for federal urban tree funding, Schumer says

Justin Murphy, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
May 8, 2023

The city of Rochester will be "first in line" for federal urban forestry funding to help achieve an ambitious increase in the city's tree canopy, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer said Monday.

The 2022 Inflation Reduction Act included \$1.5 billion in funding for urban forestry, an unprecedented federal investment in that area. It follows a growing consensus among scientists and policymakers that growing the tree canopy can have major health and economic impacts for city residents, in particular in the face of climate change.

Mayor Malik Evans last year announced a goal of increasing the city's tree inventory by 6,000 over the next three years, reaching a total of 75,000 trees on property right-of-ways and other public places. On Monday he unveiled the expected price tag: \$5 million, of which the city hopes to win \$3.5 million from the federal program.

The remaining \$1.5 million would come from the city budget, in addition to the existing forestry budget.

The funding application is due by June 1, but Schumer said he has already written to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack "to let him know I want Rochester to be first in line to tap this money."

He continued: "As author of the program and as majority leader, I think I'll have a little say with him."

Schumer cited the 2022 Democrat and Chronicle series *Forest in the City*, which detailed the disparities in Rochester's tree canopy and their causes and effects.

What are the goals, stakes of the tree expansion program?

Rochester's tree expansion program is designed to reduce canopy disparities across city quadrants by leveling the stocking rate: that is, the number of trees planted compared to the number of available planting spaces. The goal is for each quadrant to be stocked at 85% by the end of 2025.

That would mean adding 2,700 trees in the Northeast compared to 720 in the Southeast, which is already thickly forested. Schumer and Evans made their remarks on Kelly Street off Joseph Avenue and concluded by planting a tuliptree, a native species that can attain 100 feet in height when fully mature.

"Too many neighborhoods are stuck in what you'd call concrete deserts," Schumer said. "We now have an opportunity to restore Rochester's legacy as a tree city and make that legacy blossom once again."

More: How did some Rochester neighborhoods become greener than others?

The tree expansion program is supposed to happen in coordination with a rewritten forestry master plan, but that update has been significantly delayed. Evans initially said it would be ready by the end of 2022; now the promise is sometime in July.