Wedgestock 2008: Not Your Ordinary Annual Meeting

By Allison Clark

Wedgestock 2008 is back bigger and better than ever! The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) hosts “not your ordinary annual meeting” on Sunday, August 24th, at the Highland Bowl, South Avenue. Join your neighbors in celebrating SWPC’s triumphs of the past year, vote for new board members, enjoy some music, and have some fun. This year, a variety of local food vendors will offer a taste of the Wedge!

Headlining in the Highland Bowl this year are Double Take, a 5-member blues band, and Ground Canyon Rescue Episodwe, a folk band known for its eclectic origins.

Expect more activities for everyone this year at Wedgestock. Children will have five different crafts including nature houses they can build themselves, hat making and tie-dyed shirts. Families can test their skills at ladder golf, bocce, croquet, and more!

The Wedge

SouthWedge.org Wants You

Rochester’s South Wedge Online Neighborhood

By Ben Munson

Have you heard anyone mention SouthWedge.org lately? Given the rapid growth in users since its launch in February, there’s a good chance you have. In the six months SouthWedge.org has been online, it has attracted over 200 registered members by word of mouth alone. Neighbors have been enthusiastically looking forward to ways to connect with their community, and this social network has empowered them to do just that.

SouthWedge.org was created in response to a South Wedge neighborhood preservation corporation serving the South Wedge community. As a board member, I saw several recurring problems that limited the organization’s effectiveness. Our biggest issue was communication. SWPC publishes The Wedge newspaper bi-monthly in order to communicate neighborhood happenings and educate residents on the progress of SWPC-sponsored projects. Occasionally SWPC also sends out mailers to as many as 2,000 households to spread a particular message. SWPC needed to establish a fluid, two-way dialog with the residents that it serves in a less costly and more conversational manner.

I developed SouthWedge.org as a test case for a much more complex neighborhood search and communication tool. I wanted it to be a place where neighbors could send messages to other neighbors, search the local business directory, pose questions and answers to each other via public forums, advertise and request services, and create their own groups. Currently, member-created groups on the site are as diverse as Dog Walkers Against Crime, South Wedge Gardeners, Scrabble Club, Gay Neighbors and the South Wedge Lactocards.

If you’re curious to know who’s playing at Boulder Coffee, The Good Time, Cavern’s or any other great Wedge venue you can check out the neighborhood events calendar. Any user is free to post events and you can easily find scheduled dog walking meet-ups, PAC-TAC walks, scrabble nights and the occasional local business promotion.

An unexpected benefit of the site is its use in promoting neighborhood safety. Online neighbors are working together to curb crime and improve the quality of life here in the Wedge. In the “Crime Center Crisis” forum started by a local resident, 88 responses were posted about disturbances at the corner of South Ave and Hamilton Street. With support from SWPC and the NET Office, residents organized themselves and met with the Director of the Self Help Drop-in Center, and public disturbances have greatly reduced. In another forum, “bicyclists doing break-ins” residents of Sanford Street were worried about a group of men scouting out their street for potential burglaries.

As the South Wedge continues to evolve into a sustainable, walkable urban village, it is my hope that this site brings together neighbors, strengthens the community and fosters more local business and entertainment. There are so many great things happening in our neighborhood. You really should go to SouthWedge.org and see what you’re missing. A SouthWedge.org board member and owner of NewDigs.com, a real estate listing platform.

River Park Commons Development Update!

By Bob Boyd

In the June issue of The Wedge, we provided a summary of the proposed changes to the River Park Commons development on Mt. Hope Avenue and asked readers to comment. Over 300 people commented on the preliminary Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by Conifer Realty. The next step in the process is for the City of Rochester and Conifer Realty to review the comments, make changes and continue on page 12.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT STARTING A BUSINESS?

What are the best sources of assistance?

Contact SWPC’s Business Advising Program:

Free of charge

Available to potential, new and established businesses

Financial review and recommendations

Experienced consultants:

George Gotsikis Kevin DiGiacomo

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

Eileen Thomas 256-1740 ext 103

SouthWedge.org

224 Mt. Hope Avenue Rochester, New York 14620

P A I D

Permit No. 4041

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SWPC TO BUILD A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2009 to 2012

By Bob Boyd

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), a non-profit neighborhood preservation corporation serving the South Wedge, is currently updating its strategic plan to provide direction for 2009 to 2012, and we need your help!

SWPC works to build community in the South Wedge, encourage a full range of housing opportunities and promote a diverse, historically significant and commercially viable urban village.

SWPC fulfills its mission by doing work in the area of housing, business development and community building.

Housing

SWPC assists income-qualified homeowners to make repairs to their houses using funds from various sources; rehabilitates and sells homes to income qualified first-time owners; and provides affordable rental housing. We also work with neighborhood residents and city officials to identify and address property condition issues.

SWPC refers people to various other agencies for housing issues such as foreclosures. Our large Tool Library provides residents with advice and access to over 300 different tools for your projects.

Business Development

SWPC provides business advising services to individuals considering a new business and individuals already in business. We administer New York State Main Street Funds and recruit businesses to the South Wedge area. We also provide support and assistance to the business associations, (BASWA and South Clinton Business Association)

Community Building

SWPC engages in a number of community building activities including publishing The Wedge newspaper six times a year. We support block clubs and tenant associations, work on crime prevention, community problem resolution, and maintain and improve public spaces.

Ben Munson is a SWPC board member and owner of NewDigs.com, a real estate listing platform.
Twenty-somethings Enjoy the “Wedge” Experience

By Reena Singh

As an up-and-coming neighborhood in Rochester, NY, it makes sense that the South Wedge is attractive to younger people looking for an area rich in resources and employment. Though jobs may be the initial pull for 20-somethings into the neighborhood, a certain employment. Though jobs may be attractive to younger people looking for others.

Open Face Café staffer Rob Sickles, 23, agrees that the neighborhood consists of like-minded people with common beliefs of supporting each other. “Everyone needs what everyone provides.”

Pauline Coles, 23, who works with Sickles, agrees that another great way to attract more people to the South Wedge is through community entertainment such as live music, theatre performances or art exhibitions. As for suggestions on Wedge improvement, several new residents voiced concerns about safety. While the night can be peaceful, it seems a bit too deserted at times. “It may be convenient to stop by a random Starbucks for a cup of coffee, but much more stimulating for the local economy to go to Equal Grounds,” adds Cook. It’s the most progressive and accepting neighborhood in the city,” says Chelsea Cook, who works at New Health Café. Cook, 20, enjoys the diversity, saying that while it includes upscale areas, it never feels “pretentious” around the Wedge. It seems as though the Wedge succeeds in maintaining a hip, urban appeal.

One trait that sets the community apart from other Rochester areas for Cook is the overall socially conscious mentality. The neighborhood and a role model ability is a phenomenal strength of the Wedge, according to Sickles. “It never feels upscale areas, but it never feels Tom Adkins, a volunteer coordinator at Wedge Health Café and a local artist, says the neighborhood is “commercially viable urban village.”

Before recycling this printed newspaper, why not pass it on to a friend or co-worker.

The Wedge Newspaper, a bi-monthly newsletter, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), a grassroots organization serving the South Wedge urban village. Its mission is to provide accurate and current neighborhood news as well as local developments. The newspaper was first published in 1982 as The S.O.S. News. Today, the Wedge is printed bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October and December) with a circulation of 7,300.

Please see our complete Advertising Deadlines and Rates published in 1982 as The S.O.S. News.

Please send your story suggestions or story requests to Wedge Newspaper Editor Nancy O’Donnell, 224 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620 or nodonnell@swpc.org.

Webster Printing, Printing & Mailing Services

Reena Singh, Urban Fellow Intern

Wedge Newspaper

Shop Local!

Use Energy Wisely

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Highland Hospital

Our Mission Statement

SWPC fosters community in the South Wedge, communicates local issues, provides resources, and promotes a diverse, historically significant, and economically viable urban village.

Ad Deadline for Next Issue

August 27!
Lt. Frank Churnetski Retires

Lt. Frank Churnetski, 43, retired from Rochester Police Dept. on June 22. He was an integral part of the NET D office on South Clinton Avenue where he worked for three years.

Churnetski graduated from Irondequoit H.S. and received a degree in mechanical engineering from MCC and a B.A. in Community and Human Services from Empire State.

“I went to school for engineering,” said Churnetski, whose father Frank, Sr. was a member of the Rochester police force for 32 years. “When I passed the exam, and they offered me a job on the BPD, I figured I could go back to school if I didn’t like it. I enjoyed it and was promoted.” He stayed for 22½ years.

In his time at the NET Office, Churnetski spoke with neighborhood groups, walked with PAC-TAC and even helped with the Maic Daley Park playground build day. He especially appreciated the strong community involvement.

“In particular the community rallied around an issue to try to better the neighborhood,” said Churnetski.

Administrator Pete Saxe said he’ll miss seeing Churnetski at the NET Office?

“His sense of humor,” said Saxe. “He was well loved, has a good work ethic, a way with words,” said Saxe. “He also challenged the community. He’d tell them, you set the tone for what the neighborhood should be like.”

On the first day of his retirement, Churnetski went to work at LT’s Home and Office Repair, a company he owns with his father-in-law.

“I started digging holes for a deck on June 23,” said Churnetski.

The Churnetski family (wife Jodi and two daughters, Kristen, 11, and Kaitlin, 9) are planning day trips this summer.

Any advice for his successor at the NET Office?

“I’d say listen to the neighbors. They know what’s going on,” said Churnetski. “South Wedge neighbors are a good, cohesive group. They know about not only criminal [activities], but they know about the good things too.”

“If you want a good place to eat, ask the neighbors.”

By Nancy O’Donnell

Echo-Tone Music Plans Punk Rock Picnic to Help the Homeless

Music is organizing a punk rock party, picnic and fundraiser to benefit the Catholic Family Center (CFC) homeless program on Sunday, August 24, noon to 8:30 p.m.

Why is he doing it?

Sound Engineer Bruce Campbell.

To just have fun,” said WilmARTH. “These bands are influenced by bands from the NYC scene from 1972-1982 like the Ramones, Johnny Thunders, Blondie, Television, Lou Reed and more. Most are poets and songwriters speaking their mind and creating a better place to be and live— or at least expressing what they think was right and wrong about taxes, life, death, working 9-5 jobs, etc. everything instead of just about woman and drinking and lost love.”

Mike Murray, host of “Whole Lot of Shaking” radio show on WITR (89.7), is also expected to attend some part of the Sunday event. “Murray deserves credit,” said WilmARTH. “He’s been playing rock and roll, garage and punk bands, all the pioneer bands for 20 years.”

WilmARTH first learned of the CFS from Rochester musician Jeff Harris who sponsors a “Hot Blues for the Homeless” fundraiser each year.

“We’re very happy to be part of this fundraiser,” said Mary Moughan, who works in the Catholic Family Center Homeless and Housing Department.

“We run shelters for women and for women with children,” continued on page 9
Community Builders

By Allison Clark
South Wedge Garden Contest
The South Wedge Gardens Contest was held on July 19th. Eight gardeners entered their personal plots and all of them were spectacular. Judges included Peter Saxe from the NET office, Megan Meyer from the Rochester Civic Garden Center, and Tracy Savville, SWPC board member and South Wedge resident. The winners were: Nancy Daley, Carol Heveron, Cheryl Stevens and Doug Root, and Jane Wyland.

"Cinema at Sunset" Film Festival
BASWA and George Eastman House present "Cinema at Sunset," a 5-day classic film festival, at the Highland Bowl, Tues. August 26–Sat. August 30. Admission to the event is FREE!
Each night gates will open at 5:30 p.m. for pre-movie music by local musicians including the Hi-Risers, Ancient Youth Trio, Bobbie Henrietta and the Goners, Gordon Munding and Curtis Waterman. Music runs from 6:00 to 7:15, followed by shorts and animations from the Eastman Collection. Each feature film will be broadcast in 35mm reel to reel onto a 45' x 18' theatre screen and introduced by Eastman Film Dept. curators. Features start at dusk or by 8:00 p.m. (Rain Location: The Dryden Theatre at the George Eastman House.)

• Monday: 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)
• Wednesday: Manhattan (1979)
• Thursday: North by Northwest (1959)(Music by Bobby Henrietta & the Goners)
• Friday: American Graffiti (1973) PLUS: bring your classic car to the bowl for our “Crusie-in” on Friday night (Music by The JB-Rivers)
• Saturday: Double Feature Scary Movie Night! The Black Cat (1934) and The Bride of Frankenstein (1935) (Music by Ancient Youth Trio and Gordon Munding & Curtis Waterman)

Food and beverages offered by local businesses will be available. Bring a picnic or sample our concessions. (Please - no beverages brought in, food only. We encourage you to park at School 12 or Rochester Children’s Network for concessions. (Please - no beverages brought in, food only.)

Music Concert Series continue evenings in September under the Gazebo at Otto Hen- derberg Park. 6p.m. Free! Food available for purchase.

River Park Commons Launch 2008-09 School Supply Drive
The River Park Commons Tenant Association, Mt. Hope Avenue, is collecting school supplies for children in the complex. Donate book bags (especially!), paper, pencils, pens, crayons, glue sticks, and rulers. Call the Tenant Association office at 546-7933 or call Joann (414-9862) or Yvonne (284-2868) to see how you can help.

University of Rochester Simon School Christmas Baskets
This past year students from the Simon School of Business at the University of Rochester provided Christmas baskets to over 90 children from River Park Commons. Christmas baskets included clothes and toys for each child and were delivered by volunteers from the Simon School. A big thanks goes out to all of the students, especially Alicia Fang, born who coordinated this years Christmas baskets.

South Wedge Neighbors Council
The South Wedge Neighbors Council has helped this past Wednes- day evening of each month around the neighborhood. Neighbors Council is a group of South Wedge residents committed to improving neighborhood safety and quality of life and organizing neighbor- hood activities. Consider joining – it is a terrific way to get involved. The next meeting will be held on August 6 at Equal Grounds Coff- ee House on South Ave. For more information, contact Allison Clark at 256-1740, ext 106 or aclark@swpc.org.

Star Alley Updates
BASWA members and community volunteers worked over the past month to clean up Star Alley and create an environment where people linger, picnic, listen to music, and garden. They have added another large planting bed in the front, paved the area at the front, added a stage for Third Thursday concerts, and they now have a large community garden at the back. The community garden was created with the help of Highland Family Medicine, through the “Community Medicine Program”. They donated 40 hours of labor to build the raised planting beds, and the raised garden at the very back of the lot. BASWA “adopted out” five of the six beds to community members who plant and tend them. BASWA will adopt them out annually to whoever wants to commit. BASWA volunteers built the fence that encloses the com- munity garden, and the residents planted a border of day lilies in front of it. It has been a great com- munity effort to beautify this little lot. A very big thank you to Pete Saxe for volunteering to do the project along every step of the way. ▲

(Eileen Thomas contributed to the column.)
South Wedge & Westside Farmers Markets Now Accept Food Stamp/EBT Cards –

And double your first $5 with a free NY Fresh Check each week!

By Vicki Hartman

Two local farm markets—South Wedge and Westside—can now accept Food Stamp/EBT cards along with credit and debit. This electronic transaction was made possible through wireless technology, which is set up at the Market Management Tent. Food stamp customers can use their card to purchase $5 wooden tokens, which then function as cash at the Market. Credit/Debit customers get $5 tokens.

For each minimum purchase of $5 in food stamp tokens, customers will receive an additional $5 NY Fresh Check certificate to spend at the market! Thanks goes to the Farmers Market Federation of NY for working hard to bring the NY Fresh Check program to farmers’ markets around the state. We are hoping that the checks will be an added incentive for food stamp recipients to continue shopping at local markets.

The goal of this program is to help food stamp customers obtain affordable, farm fresh foods at farmers markets—an excellent alternative to convenience or grocery stores.

Tokens and Fresh Checks can be used to purchase foods that include fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy products, baked goods, processed foods, and even seeds and plants which produce foods.

The potential audience to benefit is significant. In Monroe County, over 38,000 households receive food stamps. This amounts to over $88 million in food stamps that are issued monthly.

Farm Market locations include: Westside, 831 Genesee Street at St. Monica Church. Tuesdays 4-8 p.m.; South Wedge, 100 Alexander St at Boulder Coffee Co. Thursdays 4-8p.m.

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Serving the South Wedge since 1947

9th Annual Streets of Sales
Sales on Averill Ave and Ashland, Bond, Gregory, Hamilton and Whalin Streets
August 9 and 10 – 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Lots of Good Stuff!
Jane Wyland, Sanford Street
Jane Wyland won “Best Overall Garden” for her gorgeous backyard habitat garden on Sanford Street. The judges were impressed by her use of space and the attention she paid to create a welcoming habitat for wildlife. The yard and garden is maintained without the use of pesticides or chemicals and is a true testament to the beauty of a “green” garden. The variety of plants were stellar; judges were especially surprised by an unexpected redwood nestling in the garden.

Carol Heveron, Goebel Place
Carol Heveron won in the “Best Use of Space.” Heveron’s garden is a perfect example of ingenuity and the variety of plant and statuary available to a small scale city gardener. Her use of every possible space and the year round appeal of the garden made this backyard oasis a tranquil and peaceful refuge in the city.

Nancy Daley, Linden Street
The “Best Theme” award went to Nancy Daley and her beautifully maintained garden. The theme that the judges felt continually as they walked through the garden was “Romance.” Daley clearly loves her garden and has provided a number of seating areas in which to view it. She was able to create a real getaway.

Cheryl Stevens and Doug Root, Averill Avenue
The award for “Best Streetscape” goes to the garden of Cheryl Stevens and Doug Root. The couple paid great attention to detail in choosing period plants to fit their simple cottage. The gardens in the front of the house made you want to walk right inside the home. Each plant and shrub are perfectly matched to the home’s design and place on the lot.
Two years ago, The Business Association of the South Wedge Area (BASWA) asked the city to remove parking meters in the South Avenue commercial district. The city responded by lopping off the meter heads. A quick response, but a bit unsightly for our urban village.

BASWA President Chris Jones says she learned about a Syracuse beautification project that transformed meters to art and put out a call to artists for sculptures that could sleeve over the posts and also function as bicycle racks.

Forty-two artists submitted designs, and eight were chosen. The totems are now installed along South Avenue between Sanford Street at Hickory Street. Each artist received a $500 stipend made possible by the Arts Council of Greater Rochester and BASWA.

Artist Alert! Jones says that eight more totems are planned for beheaded meters along South Avenue up to Comfort Street. The 2009 contest will be announced sometime in Fall with projected installation in Spring. To learn more about the 2009 contest, visit baswa.org.

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St. Boniface School Ends a Century of Education in the South Wedge

By Nancy O'Donnell

For over 145 years, children have attended St. Boniface School on Gregory and Whalin Streets. In June, the Catholic Diocese of Rochester cited low enrollment and high costs, closed the South Wedge school, along with 12 other Catholic city schools.

Fr. Richard Brickler, the church’s pastor, recently reflected on his thirty-five years as pastor. “I didn’t know much about the South Wedge,” he noted, “not being from the area,” said Fr. Brickler, who had already served as pastor at Corpus Christi and Holy Family parishes, taught at King’s Prep, and served on the Diocese Tribunal courts before he came to St. Boniface. “I found an awful lot of people, dedicated and supportive, willing to help. Lots of volunteers, active organizations like the Twilight-Scouts.”

Fr. Brickler noticed immediately “the strong ties” in the parish. “Lots of people were related. They went to school here. There was a certain closeness, you don’t find in a sprawling suburb,” said Fr. Brickler.

At the same time, Brickler recognized that many of the young families who moved into “starter houses” later moved to the families who moved into “starter houses” would later move to the neighborhood. They keep improving the buildings,” said Fr. Brickler. “Lots of growth, many improvements. People are working hard behind the scenes to make good things happen and not let the neighborhood deteriorate.”

The current three-story school building on Whalin Street was begun in the fall of 1922. In addition to classrooms, the building includes a club room in the basement, complete with bowling alley, and a kitchen and cafeteria. On Wednesday, November 6th, 1957, disaster struck St. Boniface Church in the form of the never-to-be-forgotten “great fire.” The blaze began in the roof. Smoke was visibly rising in the form of the new-to-be-forbidden “great fire.” The blaze started at about 4:20 in the afternoon, apparently from sparks from a charcoal fire pit being used by workmen putting the finishing touches to the roof. Due to the high wind, by 5:30 pm, the fire reached its peak and the entire roof and lower steeple were on fire. The three alarm blaze saw firemen battling on into the night. Crowds, informed by news broadcast on radio and TV gathered from all parts of the city to view the spectacle that was to spell doom to the venerable old edifice. When the fire was finally defeated, the damage estimates were placed at $100,000. Time was to prove that, in reality, the building was a total loss, it would have to be razed, and a new structure be built. With no little enthusiasm, ingenuity, and much cooperation effort on the part of many parishioners, the auditorium in the old school building was pressed into service as a temporary church.

From “1860-1960 – St. Boniface Church Centennial Celebration and St. Boniface Bicentennial Celebration”

History of St. Boniface Parish
The German Catholics of the southeastern part of the city belonged to St. Joseph’s Church (ministered by the Redemptorist Fathers. The distance being inconveniently great, all felt the need of a church and school. In December 1859 a meeting consisting of 123 men was held. They pledged themselves to contribute toward the building of a church, and requested the Redemptorist Fathers to organize and take charge of the newly formed parish temporarily. On May 12, 1860 Rev. Max Leimgruber, Rector of St. Joseph’s Church and Felix Albert Sachtermann undertook the establishment of the parish.”

On Sept. 2, 1866, six years after alicity Gothic parish church was first erected on Grand Street, now Gregory, for the German immigrant population. The Sisters of Notre Dame began teaching Parish children. The first class numbered 80 boys and 94 girls. The original classes, taught in German, were held on the first floor of the church.

Originally, teachers came from a variety of religious orders – The School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Mercy, or St. Francis—with names like Sister Evangelina, Lumena, Sperna, and Philonilla.

Fr. Brickler was an important presence in the lives of the school’s students. During his tenure as principal, he was known to take to the stage and join in a few dances at the student’s urging. In a recent article in the Catho lite Courier, sixth-grade teacher Lucynn Ommoston remarked on Fr. Brickler’s loyalty with both students and faculty. “Every single morning he has come over to the school and prayed with the children. You don’t always see that kind of support,” said Ormiston, who taught at the school for 26 years. Currently, the future of the school is still in flux.

“We have been approached by a charter school who might want to rent the space,” said Fr. Brickler. “We’d like to keep access to the hall and meeting rooms.” Along with social programs like the Men’s Club, the school also provides rooms for AA meetings and Youth Programs. Still Fr. Brickler is confident that the future is bright for both the school, the former convent and the neighborhood as a whole. “The neighborhood groups and merchants work to better the neighborhood. They keep improving the buildings,” said Fr. Brickler. Lots of growth, many improvements. People are working hard behind the scenes to make good things happen and not let the neighborhood deteriorate.”

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St. Boniface School Ends a Century of Education in the South Wedge

By Nancy O’Donnell

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The current three-story school building on Whalin Street was begun in the fall of 1922. In addition to classrooms, the building includes a club room in the basement, complete with bowling alley, and a kitchen and cafeteria. On Wednesday, November 6th, 1957, disaster struck St. Boniface Church in the form of the never-to-be-forgotten “great fire.” The blaze started at about 4:20 in the afternoon, apparently from sparks from a charcoal fire pit being used by workmen putting the finishing touches to the roof. Due to the high wind, by 5:30 pm, the fire reached its peak and the entire roof and lower steeple were on fire. The three alarm blaze saw firemen battling on into the night. Crowds, informed by news broadcast on radio and TV gathered from all parts of the city to view the spectacle that was to spell doom to the venerable old edifice. When the fire was finally defeated, the damage estimates were placed at $100,000. Time was to prove that, in reality, the building was a total loss, it would have to be razed, and a new structure be built. With no little enthusiasm, ingenuity, and much cooperation effort on the part of many parishioners, the auditorium in the old school building was pressed into service as a temporary church.

From “1860-1960 – St. Boniface Church Centennial Celebration and St. Boniface Bicentennial Celebration”

The Wedge
August-September 2008

St. Boniface School Ends a Century of Education in the South Wedge

By Nancy O’Donnell

For over 145 years, children have attended St. Boniface School on Gregory and Whalin Streets. In June, the Catholic Diocese of Rochester cited low enrollment and high costs, closed the South Wedge school, along with 12 other Catholic city schools.

Fr. Richard Brickler, the church’s pastor, recently reflected on his thirty-five years as pastor. “I didn’t know much about [the South Wedge] not being from the area,” said Fr. Brickler, who had already served as pastor at Corpus Christi and Holy Family parishes, taught at King’s Prep, and served on the Diocese Tribunal courts before he came to St. Boniface.

“I found an awful lot of people, dedicated and supportive, willing to help. Lots of volunteers, active organizations like the Twilight-Scouts.”

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Heart of the City
continued from page 3
said Mougham. “The shelters also provide food and clothing. Many who come to the shelter, come with nothing.”

Along with the bands in the parking lot behind the store, the fundraiser includes a barbecue, burgers, mac salad, and corn on the cob, all for a $5 donation.

Wilmuth said that Echo-Tone is seeking sponsors and donations from area businesses to help with the Punk Picnic.

For more information, contact Echo-Tone Music, 571 South Avenue, 452-2195.

Historic Houseparts Owner says Paper Bag It!

Chris Jones, Historic Houseparts on South Avenue, sent out a call to South Wedge businesses via the BASWA (Business Association of South Wedge Area) newsletter to go green in their operations.

“If you are still using paper bags despite all the evidence on why you should not be (either in your personal life or at your business) here is a reminder-- http://www.poconorecord.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080506/MULTIMEDIA02/805050146.”

The website slide presentation goes beyond just showing the environmental impact and addresses the issue of global oil reserves and plastic bags manufacturing.

Jones also listed a downtown source for all sizes of paper bags, Bags Unlimited www.bagsunlimited.com.
DePaul’s T-shirt Factory Expands Services

By Maggie Fitzgibbon

The DePaul T-shirt Factory, located at 150 Mt. Hope Ave., recently installed new equipment and expanded its services to now include custom premium imprints on coffee mugs, plaques, awards, mouse pads, key chains and other many other products.

Three new pieces—a sublimation printer, a heat press and a mug press—enable staff to imprint a specific image like a photograph. The equipment prints a transfer as, “a high tech iron-on, but which permanently affixes the image to the product.

JD Curran, T-Shirt Factory Manager, describes the new equipment as, “a high tech iron-on, but better.”

The T-Shirt Factory is a not-for-profit textile silk screening shop that employs individuals with a mental health diagnosis, and is the first business in Monroe County, New York to serve this population.

DePaul is a private not-for-profit agency founded in 1958 to residential senior living services for the elderly, mental health residential and treatment programs, addiction prevention and treatment services, as well as programs for those with developmental disabilities. To learn more visit www.depaul.org.

Maggie Fitzgibbon is Communications Coordinator for DePaul.
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For more info, call 421-0353 or 720-1333
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8 Wickford Way, Pittsford, NY

TIPS FOR SHOPPING GARAGE SALE AND FLEA MARKETS

By Ed Meyers

• Stick to your limit—Know what you want to pay before you start negotiating. Ask yourself: what is it worth to me regardless of its antique or collectibility value.

• Mind your manners—Sure everybody wants to get a great deal. But offending the dealer with a hardball attitude won’t get you the deal. Be polite with your questions: “Is this your best offer? Are you willing to negotiate?” Or simply make your best offer. Some dealers will consider a discount of 10-15%.

• Bring cash—A dealer may accept a lower offer if you have the green to back it up. There is nothing as immediately gratifying as having bills counted out into your hand.
COMMUNITY SPEAK OUT

SWPC Summer Intern Takes a Look at What Makes the Wedge Great

By Reema Singh

How many of us, at one point or another, have posed the question, “What’s there to do in Rochester?” Guilty.

Although I’ve spent all 20 years of my life growing up in Rochester, I must admit that as a Pittsford resident my knowledge of the city has been rather limited. It wasn’t until college that I began to step outside my bubble and ask myself: how well do I really know my hometown?

In Fall, I’ll be a junior majoring in psychology and anthropology at the University of Rochester. This summer I am a Urban Fellow intern at the South Wedge Planning Committee where I am researching everything from the River Park Commons Project to the economic prospects of the neighborhood. Consequently, I have observed the crucial roles that housing, business development, and public engagement play in the advancement of a community. My favorite part of my job however, lies in the simple joy of getting to know a new neighborhood.

A mere stroll along the streets of the South Wedge shows that there is no other place like this in Rochester. Cyclists ride from destination to destination along the sidewalks where old parking meters have been transformed into eclectic sculptures by local artists. Vibrant storefronts align side by side, radiating an energy that attracts curious passersby, just as the bright-colored interiors of the Coffee Connection did to me.

More than just its unique appearance, the South Wedge is distinctive for reasons embedded deeply into its character. Never have I witnessed such great economic diversity, such a strong mix consisting in one given area. Better yet, this diversity thrives in unity, with so much dedication to the community’s growth as a whole. Not only does the South Wedge promote local sustainability, but the actual businesses themselves offer goods and services that are an emblem of social progression. All vegetarian options are offered at the New Health Café while proceeds of mug and t-shirt sales at Equal Grounds Coffeehouse go to the Pride Connection. The South Wedge Farmer’s Market makes a pledge to sell locally grown food, and the South Wedge, environment, local farmer, and the healthiest quality of nutrition. Although younger crowds tend to be the ones drawn towards these social movements, it’s always admirable to see individuals of other generations continuously open to change. When I hear about the state of the neighborhood in the 1970’s—empty storefronts, criminal acts—it is truly remarkable to note the drastic changes. Now if ever catch myself saying, “there’s nothing to do in Rochester,” I can tell myself this city, just like people, are far from being stagnant. The only consistency rather is in their ongoing ability to learn, change, and grow. When we blame our own boredom on a city by claiming that it has no real life, we are really expressing an unwillingness to get to know it from a new perspective. This attitude ultimately fails to recognize a city’s true dynamic.

After five weeks in the South Wedge, I have inadvertently adopted this new perspective allowing me to witness a vitality, energy, and passion in Rochester. Thank you to the South Wedge, who has guided me through this important realization.

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The WEDGE, a not-for-profit newspaper, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee, a grassroots organization serving the South Wedge Urban Village. The WEDGE first appeared in 1982 when it was called The S.O.S. News. It now boasts a circulation of 7000.

Give us a call at 256.1740, ext. 102.

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More Free Services Offered by South Wedge Tool Library

By Ed Meyers, Tool Librarian

Add identification to your valuables. Help protect and aid in recovering items such as tools, auto parts or whatever you wish to protect. The South Wedge Tool Library will help its members to engrave names, phone numbers or other information free of charge. Just bring in your items, and we will provide the tools and instruction to get you started.

Re-sharpen dull drill bits at the Library. Don’t throw away your dull drill bits, but rather re-sharpen them like new when necessary. This is yet another free service offered to tool library members. Bring in your drills, and we will teach you to use our Drill Doctor re-sharper.

Borrow our Weed Wacker. Our Robin Weed Wacker saw some hard service in recent weeks. It’s ready to do more bang up jobs for our members.

Have you seen our Bosch sliding compound miter saw? It handles the largest of jobs with ease and accuracy. Power drills and planers will keep your remodeling project on schedule.

Getting a late start in the garden? You can still add some flowers and bushes to your yard using our Mathis roto tillers.

Still more! The Library has ordered more filters for our HEPA Vac which is used to control lead-based paint dust during remodel-ing. The HEPA Vac is the only tool we loan that has a charge attached to it. These vacs use a special very fine one-time disposable filter that SWPC must purchase at a cost of $6.00 each. As our tool library member, you pay the same price as us, free of any mark ups.

Thanks to another Friend of the Tool Library- A big salute to Michael Maccio for his very large contribution of tools in excellent condition to our tool library members. Bring in your drills, and we will teach you to use our Drill Doctor re-sharper.

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Thanks to another Friend of the Tool Library- A big salute to Michael Maccio for his very large contribution of tools in excel-lent condition to our tool library system. Another person from the South Wedge who wished to remain anonymous also made a large and excellent condition tool contribution Leslie Mc Pherson has made tool donations in the past and did so once again before leaving for North Carolina All the very best to Leslie. ▲
SWPC Strategic Plan 2009-2012
continued from page 1

SWPC’s 2005-2008 Strategic Plan provided direction to the organization for the past three years. The purpose of a strategic plan is to provide a long-term road map for the organization. It identifies the strategic imperatives for the organization. For the period 2005 to 2008, there were five strategic imperatives. The first was to mobilize residents and businesses to make the South Wedge a better place; second, to encourage real estate development that meets affordable and market rate housing needs; third, identify and develop public improvements; fourth, provide quality services that meet the needs of the community; and fifth, promote the South Wedge as a viable urban village. The plan addresses how the organization’s resources are allocated to achieve the strategic imperatives.

In order to create a meaningful strategic plan for 2009-2012, we need community input on concerns.

Community sessions will be held:
- Mon., August 4, 2008 – 6 p.m.
- Wed., August 6, 2008 – 8 a.m., 12 p.m., 6 p.m., and 9 p.m.
- Sat., August 9, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.
- Mon., August 11, 2008 at 2 p.m.

What kind of input do we need?
We need your thoughts around the following questions:
- What do you like best about the South Wedge?
- What is the one thing you would like to change?
- What is the greatest issue facing the Wedge today?
- What is missing in the Wedge that you would like to see?
- If you were here in 2005, is the South Wedge better, the same or worse?

For more information, call 256-1740, ext. 102.

River Park Commons Update
continued from page 1

and provide additional information. This will result in a final EIS which will enable the process to move forward.

Much dialogue is now occurring between many parties including SWPC, Conifer and various city officials, and it appears that many of the major concerns that SWPC voiced will be addressed in the final EIS. We have seen movement on the topics of relocation, river access and architectural design. In the area of relocation, current residents will have the right to return to the income qualified units and the Somalian community will have a translator.

In addition, the Somalian Community Center will be entitled to some form of relocation assistance and efforts will be made to keep residents in the South Wedge.

The developer has retained a new architect firm, Banton Partners, Inc., to redesign the project which is very good news. The best news of all is river access! A revised site plan shows three access points direct from the street in a straight line to the river without the necessity of crossing a parking lot. Additionally with SWPC’s and Conifer’s support, the City of Rochester has applied for a $400,000 grant for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. These funds would be used for public art, landscape and other improvements at the river access points. This will make river front access not only easy but distinctive and welcoming!

The comments and input from the community is what is driving these changes – thank you for your time and effort to make the South Wedge a great place to live, work and play.

Homeowners...
Need a new roof or furnace? Concerned about Lead Paint?
Don’t wait until next Spring to contact SWPC to find out if you qualify for help with the cost of home repairs.

For more information, call Eileen Thomas 256-1740, ext. 103.

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