Community Aids in Riverfront Transformation

New Erie Harbor and The Hamilton Planned for River Park Commons Site

By Robert Boyd

The South Wedge dream of a revitalized riverfront on the site of River Park Commons on Mt. Hope Avenue is coming closer to reality through the combined efforts of a vocal community and a responsive developer.

In May 2008, Comler Development presented their initial plans for the redevelopment of River Park Commons. A number of important issues were identified such as access to the river, tenant parking and the design of the planned buildings.

The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. encouraged the community to express their concerns and helped them to outline significant issues. (To all those who wrote letters, attended meetings, made telephone calls or otherwise communicated the message—Thank you!) The developer reached out to us in response to study the issues and understand our concerns.

SWPC is pleased to provide an update of the project and to acknowledge Dick Crossed and Alan Handelman of Comler Development for recognizing the value of the site and taking a totally new approach. Crossed and Handelman started by bringing in a new architect—The Barton Partners, a nationally respected firm with experience in urban design.

In the May proposal, access to the river was limited. The current proposal provides improved vistas with three river access points. At Avrail Avenue, a 60 foot wide access point will provide a “grand entrance” to the river. A welcome entrance to the river with a water fountain that will guide people to the river.

Another major concern to the community was the lack of parking. As a result of the new design, parking allows for almost two spaces per unit, which is what was needed.

The proposed structure design, in May was for 100 two-bedroom units in 12 buildings with no variation in design. This arrangement did not attempt to incorporate the different spaces per unit, which is what was needed.

With winter quickly approaching, South Wedge residents will need to start heating their homes soon. For some, this means firing up the gas furnace, while others switch to their electric heaters. But for everyone in the Wedge it means an increase in the cost of keeping your house warm.

By Ben White

With winter quickly approaching, South Wedge residents will need to start heating their homes soon. For some, this means firing up the gas furnace, while others switch to their electric heaters. But for everyone in the Wedge it means an increase in the cost of keeping your house warm.

Despite a recent drop in the cost of natural gas, home heating costs are expected to skyrocket in July that the average fee remains higher than ever before.

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By Nancy O'Donnell

Sawyer-Molina, found-er and director of the Coffee Con-
nection was recently named one of MCC’s top 15 gradu-
ates in the com-
pany’s 44-year history who have “contributed significantly to the Rochester community.”

“I was surprised and honored,” said Sawyer-Molina, who agreed with MCC’s emphasis on the necessity of graduates “giving back to the community.”

“Work so hard, and I’m always focused on what I do. I don’t realize that other people know what I do,” said Sawyer-Molina.

The Coffee Connection, formerly the Women’s Coffee Con-
nection, provides premium free-trade coffee and pastries while practic-
ing social activism. At its South Avenue location, Sawyer-Molina’s business focuses on providing counseling and pre-
employment train-
ing for women recovering from sub-
stance abuse. On the global level, the shop reaches out to farmers in Peru who have given up their coca crops (the raw ingredient of cocaine) to grow coffee beans.

Sawyer-Molina will receive her award at a celebration on MCC’s Bright-	on Campus on Oct. 20.

Residents using oil can also continued on page 12

Thank You HSBC and Chase!

HSBC and Chase Bank have donated $5,000 each to the South Wedge Planning Committee in support of SWPC’s business recruitment and economic development program. The funds provided by these generous donations will be used to help SWPC continue efforts to bring new businesses into the community, and to ensure that all South Wedge area businesses have the support they need to succeed.

SWPC welcomes Chase Bank as a supporter of our business programs — we look forward to a successful collaboration.

HSBC has been a loyal supporter and valued partner in the South Wedge for many years. SWPC is grateful for their ongoing support and encouragement.

For information on SWPC’s business advising and other economic development efforts, contact Robert Boyd at 256-1740, ext 102 or Eilleen Thomas at 256-1740, ext 103.
Highland Branch Library News

The Highland Branch Library will host a class on disaster readiness entitled "Preparing for Emergencies," on Saturday, November 8th, 1:00-2:30 p.m. The American Red Cross Greater Rochester Chapter program will discuss: how to make a kit of supplies for family members and develop a communication and evacuation plan. They will also talk about the most likely types of disasters and emergencies that might occur in our area. It will also cover information about dealing with specific medical emergencies.

The program is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. The library is handicapped accessible. Accommodations for disabled participants must be made at least 10 business days before the program. Call Deborah Nevin, Program Coordinator, at 428-8304 to make arrangements.

Youth Programs
Story Times - October 28 - December 4th
Two Year Olds - Tues. at 10:00 a.m.
This is a story time for toddlers and their care givers.

Babies 6 months to 23 months - Wed. at 2:00 p.m.
Nursery rhymes, songs, music and short stories.

Three, four and five year olds - Thurs. at 10:00 a.m.
Longer stories, songs, learn poems, finger plays and rhymes.

Magic Tree House Book Club
meets on two Wednesdays a month.
Discuss a Magic Tree House book and do fun activities!
Wednesday, October 8th at 3:30 pm
Good Morning, Gorilla by Mary Pope Osborne
Wednesday, October 22nd, at 3:30 pm
The Knight at Dawn by Mary Pope Osborne

For questions about the programs, call 428-8206. All programs will be held at the Highland Branch Library at 971 South Avenue. Please register in person or by calling 428-8227.

The Wedge News from the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), a grassroots organization serving the South Wedge neighborhood. It was first published in 1982 as The S.O.S. News. The newspaper is mailed to homes in the South Wedge and is archived somewhere!

To reach The Wedge, call (585) 256-1740, ext. 3.
E-mail Addresses: first initial last name@swpc.org.


dated

The Wedge Newspaper, an non-profit organization, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), a grassroots organization serving the South Wedge neighborhood. The mission is to provide accurate coverage of the neighborhood as well as local, state, and national news that affect the area. The newspaper is free to all, and is funded by advertising and subscriptions, which are available online at www.swpc.org.

The Wedge is produced bi-monthly (February, April, June, August, October and December) with a circulation of 7,000. The paper is also available for free at several locations in the area. The Wedge is distributed to area businesses and retail shops and other drop points in the Greater Rochester area.

The Wedge is an advisory newsletter, focusing on local, state and national news that affect the area. It is published in English and promotes a diverse, historically significant, and culturally rich urban village.

Letter to the Editor

What do you do with five minutes of coffee left in the cup and no pressing need that needs attention? For me on a recent morning meant a plan in trash old copies of The Wedge saved since February 2006.

Five minutes stretched to thirty-five as I scanned articles and

This is a great little newspaper which touches upon the whole

Barb Case, Highland Park Neighborhood

asked by the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), a grassroots

Officers

Barb Case, Highland Park Neighborhood

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) is a community organization serving the South Wedge neighborhood, its businesses, residents and property owners. The organization encourages a full range of housing opportunities, promotes a diverse, historically significant, and commercially viable urban village.

Ad Deadline for Next Issue October 22!

Shop Local!
Heart of the City

By Nancy O'Donnell

Wedge Activist Gets Engaged

Kristin Ault and John Chajka, "Image City/Wedge Advocates" became engaged on August 23 while attending a Journey Concert at the State Fair. The couple have been dating for 7½ years. "Immediately following the show, we got on the Ferris wheel where John popped the question," said Kristin. She also reports that she "remembers nothing as I was crying!" The Hamilton Street residents are both members of the Wedge Neighbors Council. Kristin is the founder of DWCAC or Dog Walkers Against Crime.

When not proposing, John offers dog walking and dog sitting in the South Wedge as John's Dog Care and works for Nutro Dog Food.

He is also a numerous in three local bands: The Quitters, The Grinders and Clockwork. Kristin works for a local lawn care company as an Off- site Manager. Both are "the proud parents of Kaya Penelope, a Great Dane/Blue mix."

Wedge Business Takes the Lead in South Wedge Clean Up

Ron Maier, owner of Kenyon Industrial Air Conditioning, Inc. on South Avenue, decided to take the lead on signing up the entire South Wedge when others didn’t. Maier and his crew—one Shavon Maier, Jason Hu, Dave Goe, Tom Phillips, and Ian Wells—looked on the heavily overgrown South Avenue Underpass at Mt. Hope Ave. on Sept. 6. After a few hours of raking and pulling weeds, the cityscape looked great.

SWPC abates this local business for taking the initiative in making the South Wedge great! See photo on page 6.

University of Rochester Program Encourages City Living

U of R spokesperson Sharon Dickelman reports that in the last six months, 13 University employees went through the financial incentives when they bought homes in the neighborhoods closest to the University. Seven new residents are settling in Sector 6 and six more purchased properties in Sector 4 on the west side of the Genesee River.

The University Home Ownership Incentive Program now gives up to $9,000 for closing costs and other expenses to homeowners who are regular full-time and part-time faculty and staff who purchase homes in Sector 4 or Sector 6 of the city. The benefit program applies only for an employee’s primary residence. Buyers are not limited by their income.

In the most recent announcement, 136 University employees have requested employment verification locations as qualified employees for this new arrangement. The program was made possible by the City of Rochester, Advantedge Federal Credit Union, and Canandaganus National Bank & Trust. The University offers 83,000, with a comparable amount from the City of Rochester and Advantedge Federal Credit Union or Canandaganus National Bank & Trust to encourage home ownership in the city.

More information about the program is available at www.rochester.edu/workings/benefits/housing/ or by calling 275-2087. Potential buyers must obtain letters from the University’s Benefits Office to verify their employment at the start of the house hunting process.

The Coffee Connection Partners with Edison Tech on Art Project

The Coffee Connection on South Avenue soon will be working with students from the School of Imaging and Information Technology (formerly known as Edison Tech) to create a mural on the outside of the building.

"The artwork will display a window into the coffee house," said director Nancy Sawyer-Molina. "It will have a visual that reads, "Our coffee is connected."

The students, taking part in Mayor Duffy’s Youth Council, were asked to find ways to find projects that would "display [their] talents."

"They are treating the project as a community project,," Sawyer-Molina says. "They’re putting together a whole committee to organize the work.

Further, the students in the Wedge Youth Arts Council, a part of her senior project to build a South Wedge Green Initiative in the South Wedge to encourage recycling and to help residents to reduce their carbon footprints.

The five-week pilot program led to the installation of recycling bins from Alexander St. to Gregory St. on South Ave. Monroe reported recently that a change of personnel in the Monroe County recycling department brought about a recall of the bins in mid September.

Wedge Artist Chosen to Improve Paddock Day Website

RIT's Environmental Management student Karen Monroe used a part of her senior project to build a South Wedge Green Initiative in the South Wedge to encourage recycling and to help residents to reduce their carbon footprints.

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Tips to Winterize Your Home

by George Lorson and Ed Meyers

The furnace is the heart of your heating system. Your energy bills directly reflect its efficiency in burning and distributing fuel. It probably represents the largest portion of your fuel bill.

Winterize your furnace by doing the following:

Locate the furnace filter which is inserted into a metal duct [tube] attached to the furnace. It is rectangular in shape and slides into a slot across the path of the heated air coming out of the bottom of the furnace. The filter is to allow heated air to pass through the pipe after filtering out particles to keep the heated air clean. After you remove the filter check the surface for contamination and vacuum it clean if required as a temporary measure. Take the old filter with you to purchase the exact size and thickness replacement. Filters are inexpensive and have great payback on the heating bill.

Have your furnace cleaned. Only a qualified heating technician should adjust the furnace pilot and burner mechanism. The technician can also lubricate the motor and adjust the fan blower mechanism if required during the visit.

Loose duct work is a heat leak repaired by re-assembly and drilling holes for installing sheet metal screws to make a lasting fit. Wrap the repaired joint with tape designed for this purpose.

Install a high efficiency furnace. If the budget allows, you will notice improvements in your heating bills and improve the environment. Install a humidifier on the furnace which will keep you comfortable at a lower economical temperature. If you need to put off a new furnace purchase now, install one to your present furnace. Another option is one or two portable humidifiers that you simply fill with water and plug in.

Setting back the thermostat in the evening does two things. One way you save energy is to sleep more comfortably with the lower settings. Your home thermostat may allow you to manually turn up the thermostat in the morning to bring the temperature up to a comfy range in time for showers, shaving and breakfasting.

The automatic thermostat will turn temperatures down an hour before you retire and up an hour before your day begins. These clever devices offer several options such as turning temperatures down again if everyone leaves for work and school. You guessed it, it will turn temperatures back up again before you arrive home.

In addition to weekday settings, weekend options can be used. The cost of these units can run from $35 to $60 and quickly pay for themselves through fuel savings. Removing the existing thermostat and reattaching two or three wires to the new unit is easy to do.

Each unit comes with complete printed instructions and additional information on a small CD that can be played on your computer.

Furnace Checklist

• Install new furnace filter
• Clean furnace
• Install a setback thermostat
• Be sure furniture and drapes do not block registers
• Check all ductwork to be sure there are no open joints or separated pipes
• Install a high efficiency furnace (direct vent)
• Install a humidifier on the furnace
• Turn down hot water temperature when away on vacation
• Repair leaky hot water faucets
• Close fireplace damper when not in use

Insulate

Insulate water tank in basement
Put your hand on the outside surface of the water tank. If the surface feels warm that means lost heat from the interior. Ready made blankets for water heaters can be purchased or simply wrap R33 insulation around the outside and secure in place. Be careful to keep any paper insulation backing away from the gas burner area at the bottom of the tank.

Insulate hot water lines in the basement
Foam tubing with a slit along the length is an inexpensive covering for hot water lines. You will notice less run time after you open the faucet before hot water starts to run out.

Insulate the attic floor
Lay down strips of R33 insulation across the floor joists. If a solid floor is not present over the floor joists, use a piece of plywood for support to prevent putting a foot through the ceiling.

Insulate Checklist

• Insulate rim joint box in basement
• Insulate foundation wall above grade
• Insulate pre-made foam outlet covers on outlets on exterior walls
• Install weather strip exterior doors
• Install insulation slots in exterior doors
• Tack and nail any cracking in foundation
• Insulate hot water tank in basement
• Insulate hot water lines in basement
• Insulate exterior walls if they currently have little or no insulation
• Install attic floor

Make Your Home Energy Efficient with a NYSERDA Loan from NeighborWorksR™

By Abby Wade Brugno

In April 2008, NeighborWorksR™ was the only City of Rochester-based organization certified by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to underwrite loans offered by the Energy Smart Loan Fund to help residents improve their homes performance with Energy Star programs.

A homeowner who gets a loan through the Energy Smart Loan Fund normally would pay six percent interest. NeighborWorksTM is able to reduce that to a two percent interest rate. This program is available to qualified homeowners at all income levels.

“There are no income limitations on this loan, which makes it available to all homeowners in the City of Rochester,” said Eric Van Dusen, Program Director for NeighborWorks Rochester™. “The program is designed to offer for improved energy savings, the reduced cost of which helps offset the monthly loan payments, while at the same time helping the environment.”

You may be qualified if you own and live in a one- to three-family house in the City of Rochester, and have RG&E as your utility carrier. You must also have an energy audit and the work must be done by a Home Performance certified contractor. The maximum loan amount is $4,999 and the two percent interest rate continues on page 7

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Install Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Smart winterizers are switching to fluorescent bulbs. Light bulbs have two colors of light — “cool white” which is bright and “sunlight” which is natural looking. With conventional light bulbs, about half the energy goes into light and the other half goes into heat. Place your finger on a fluorescent bulb and it’s cool to the touch, whereas a conventional bulb is hot to the touch. The filament in a fluorescent bulb means longer life in addition to reduced energy consumption. Lack of a filament also means extended life in locations with some vibration such as ceiling fans. ▲

Lights Checklist

• Install fluorescent light bulbs
• Turn off lights/TV/radio when not in use
• Run dishwasher for full loads only
• Run dryer for full loads only

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Heating Costs Expected to Rise continued from page 1

Expect to see an increase in their heating bill during the winter months. Even with an overall drop in the price at the pump, the costs of crude oil and gasoline are expected to be higher than they were last year. The price of crude oil is forecast to average $51.6 a barrel this year — up 60% from last year — and then climb again next year to $126 a barrel. Inhabitants of the Northeast face an estimated heating bill of up to $8,700 this winter. According to Consumer Reports, the cost of heating one’s home with oil has jumped 198% over the last five years. Although onshore production of natural gas has been increased this year, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike have curtailed oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to natural disasters, the energy market has been particularly volatile this year. While prices have fallen in recent months, utilities have been buying natural gas for the winter heating season throughout the year as prices have been fluctuating.

While it isn’t getting any cheaper to heat a house, there are ways for homeowners to cut down on their bills. Here at the Wedge we’ve compiled a few tips for ways to save some money in the coming months. ▲

Windows

• Lower and adjust storm windows
• Install storm windows where there are none
• Replace broken glass
• Close and lock windows for a tight seal
• Repair broken sash cords so sash works properly
• Close drapes at night to reduce air movement

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• www.gencoopfcu.com

GENESEE CO-OP FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

If you live, work, worship, or attend school, or operate a business in the South Wedge, Sallburg, Highland, Ellwanger-Bailey, or other neighborhoods, you are eligible to join GFCFCU.
This year’s Not Your Ordinary Annual Meeting was bigger and better than ever. Highland Bowl was filled with families having fun, neighbors meeting, music, crafts and tasty treats from local vendors.

JoAnn Thomas, SWPC boardmember, and granddaughter Daisia.

Local band Java, with Vern Lindberg on guitar, gets the crowd rockin'.

Family and friends were having fun.

Ginny Cassetta helped kids build fairy houses.

The yum factor was high with PJ’s Travelin’ BBQ.

SWPC Community Coordinator Allison Clark with son Thomas, and husband Adam.

SWPC Boardmember John vanKerkhove and Piper.

Kenron Clean Up

Wilson Days Volunteers

Wilson Day volunteers from the University of Rochester worked at 224 Mt. Hope Avenue.
The Wedge
October-November 2008

Landscape Artist Jeremy Wright Eases into Holiday 2008

Jeremy Wright is only half joking when he says his model for holiday decorating is Clark Griswold, the Christmas-crazed family man in National Lampoon's Holiday Vacation.

Last year Wright used 4,000 lights to trim the outside of his Highland Park neighborhood home—all of them red. "One neighbor did come over singing 'Roxanne,' laughs Wright although he emphasizes that the red came from a chaste collection of lights and winterberries on evergreen. This didn't stop several other neighbors from asking for him to do the same—or almost the same—to their houses.

It's early autumn but Wright has already hung a massive wreath on his front door, planted 42 chrysanthemums and carefully placed a quiet riot of colorful gourds on the steps leading to his home. This display will change for Halloween and then transform again when the Christmas season starts. That's when Wright pulls out all the stops.

"I love the holidays," says Wright. "I love the warmth it brings. I've used my knack to pick colors for home paints and in holiday seasonal displays."

Holiday themes at Chez Wright change every year as the artist plays with colors and textures. Last year's color was "red on red on red." This year the holiday artist plans on chartreuse, orange, lime and pomegranate.

Wright, who earned a degree in ornamental horticulture and landscape development from SUNY Alfred in 2002, is now decorating the homes of some of Rochester's boldfaced names like realtor Gar and Cindi Lowenguth and creating gorgeous interior landscapes in buildings like Sagamore on East luxury condominiums. He works closely with Wisteria Flowers and Gifts on Culver Road, who help him find the materials he wants for his designs and build the wreaths and garlands. "I don't go so far as to use a glue gun," says Wright. Many of his clients return each season because they trust his judgment and appreciate that they can go to work at 8 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. to find their home transformed into a winter wonderland.

With only a month or so before his favorite season begins, Wright is planning his original designs for the neighborhood he "absolutely loves."

"I love that I'm close to the great rhododendron specimens in Highland Park and on a quiet cul de sac in the middle of the city," says Wright.

The Landscape Company, South Wedge, 729-1193.

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Make Your Home Energy Efficient

est rate is fixed for the term of the loan, which can be as long as five years. Among the improvements that can be made with the loan are furnaces, water heaters, insulation, and more, depending on what your energy audit shows.

For more information about this and other home-improvement loan programs, call NeighborWorks® at 585-326-4170. You can also visit their website at www.nwrochester.org.

NeighborWorks Rochester is a non-profit, Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Its mission is to support homeowners and first-time homebuyers by providing the resources necessary to sustain and strengthen Rochester's neighborhood housing markets.
**Fellowship Dinners:**

October-November 2008

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Highland Diner Celebrates 60 years

“Nothing can be finer than dining at the diner”

By Nancy O’Donnell

This year Highland Diner will celebrate its 60th birthday, give or take a few years as an Off Track Betting Office. As a diner it’s been celebrated in the American Diner Cookbook, immortalized in a Danbury Mint collectible sculpture and featured on Diners, Dives and Drive-ins, a TV show on A&E. However, devoted regulars return not because of its historical significance or celebrity status but for a menu of distinctive comfort food and a staff they regard as family.

Chrystal Snyder has worked at many diners around town, but Highland Diner is “the best.” “It has great clientele,” said Snyder. “They’re very loyal. They’re like family. They really care. They notice if you’re not here. On my birthday, they brought in a little cupcake.”

Snyder points to regulars Carlie Fishgold, a MCC anthropology student, and builder Ehrem Stark who leave their Monroe Avenue apartment three times a week for breakfast at the diner. “They’re awesome,” said Snyder.

“I usually eat poached egg and toast,” laughed Fishgold. “It’s really cheap.”

It’s midmorning and the diner still bustles. Owner Van Zisis cooks behind the counter while the waitresses glide smoothly from table to table.

Jessica Brown has worked at the diner the longest of the current staff. When she had her daughter Annabelle, three years ago, regulars responded like family. “They knitted blankets, brought in clothes and toys,” said Brown.

Breakfasts at the diner are a special draw: Challah Bread French Toast, Nantucket Benedict (crabcake on English muffins). Other favorites are Greek mousaka made by the owner’s father and the peanut butter and bacon sandwich on Texas toast.

Desserts have their followers especially the rice and bread puddings. Highland Diner’s Apple Crumb pies, baked at The Special Touch Bakery at the School of the Holy Childhood, were honored in recent years by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine as “the best in the country.”

Snyder points out also the diner’s specialty milkshakes especially the creamsicle and banana flavors.

The building too brings in people who like to travel back in time and cram into a green booth or swirl around on a black stool at the counter.

The diner was manufactured by the Orleans Diner Company of Albion, NY in 1948, one of possibly three models. Historical records—the menu tells part of the story—indicate it would have been pre-built in the factory before being moved to the site. Its original name was Dauphin’s Superior Diner. By 1974, the diner had closed and it was reinstalled two years later as an OTB parlor. The building was bought and restored to Art Deco splendor in 1986 by Bob Malley. In 2000 Bob retired and sold the diner to Zsis.

It’s “greatness” remains a constant said Snyder. “It has great staff, great clientele, and the owner’s great.”

960 Clinton Ave S, (585) 461-5040. Hours: Monday 8-3 p.m., Tues.-Thurs. 7 a.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 7:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 7:30 p.m.-3 p.m.
Tools, Power and Drywall: The Fall Knowledge Co-op Series

By David Halter

The South Wedge Planning Committee, in conjunction with David Halter of Epsilon Construction, is offering several Knowledge Co-ops on basic tool use and home improvement projects. This is a great opportunity for novices to become familiar with hand tools, power tools, dry wall and electrical work.

Classes will take place in Dave’s workshop at 159 Caroline St. There is only room for six people in each class, so move quickly to obtain your spot! The fee for each class is $20; all tools and materials will be supplied.

Net proceeds will go to support the programs of the South Wedge Planning Committee. Call Matt Cadrette at SWPC to register (526-1740 ext 104).

HAND TOOLS 101: Make A Letter Of The Alphabet By Hand
Date: Friday October 24, Time: 6 p.m.
A two-hour course designed to give you a chance to use a hand saw, coping saw, wood plane, hand drill, wood files, a hammer and other hand tools.

POWER TOOLS 101: Make The Same Letter With Power Tools
Date: Friday November 7, Time: 6 p.m.
This two-hour course will give you practice using a table saw, hand saw, power planer, drill press and power sander.

DRYWALL 101
Date: Friday November 21, Time: 6 p.m.
During this two-hour class, learn how to use a taping knife, corner tage, corner bead, screw guns, etc. This is a great opportunity for people who have very little knowledge of dry wall and wish to have a better understanding of it.

HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIC 101
Date: Friday December 5, Time: 6 p.m.
This is a two-hour class designed to give you a chance to work on switches, plugs, testers, lights and so on. There is always a lot to learn about working with electricity, and this course will help you understand the basics about doing these tasks safely and more efficiently.

To register for these classes, call Matt Cadrette at 256-1740 ext. 104.

Community Builders continued from page 9

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Worn spark plugs cause a variety of problems from hard starting and poor fuel economy to misfires and even engine damage. So replace them at the manufacturer’s recommended intervals. Changing plugs is a simple matter of unscrewing the old ones and screwing in the new ones. But there are a few things to keep in mind.

• Prevent defies from falling into the cylinder by brushing around the plug before you remove it. After removing the plug, wipe out the spark plug seat with a clean rag.
• If an old plug won’t turn, don’t resort to a bigger wrench. Brute force can cause major engine damage. Instead use a spray that instantly cools the plug, causing the metal to contract and loosen. Search for CRC Freeze-Off at around $6.00 a can.
• Don’t forget to set the gap of the new plugs before installing.

Use the right amount of force to tighten the plug. If you don’t have a torque wrench, first finger tighten the plug. If the plug has a tapered seat, tighten it an additional one-sixteenth turn. If you don’t have a torque wrench, first finger tighten the plug. If you don’t have a torque wrench, first finger tighten the plug. If the plug has a tapered seat, tighten it an additional one-sixteenth turn. If you don’t have a torque wrench, first finger tighten the plug. If you don’t have a torque wrench, first finger tighten the plug. If the plug has a tapered seat, tighten it an additional one-sixteenth turn.

Notice a moldy smell when you open your front load washing machine?

Most people leave the washer door closed between loads and only wash a couple of loads per week. This is a problem because the air-tight seal on the front doesn’t let the interior dry, and poor fuel economy to misfires and even engine damage. So replace them at the manufacturer’s recommended intervals. Changing plugs is a simple matter of unscrewing the old ones and screwing in the new ones. But there are a few things to keep in mind.

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• Don’t forget to set the gap of the new plugs before installing.

Notice a moldy smell when you open your front load washing machine?

Most people leave the washer door closed between loads and only wash a couple of loads per week. This is a problem because the air-tight seal on the front doesn’t let the interior dry, and between washings mold can grow away the mold when you run a load of laundry. Eliminating the mold is easy. Just run the empty washer through a cycle once a month with a mold cleaner designed for front loaders. One product for this is called Alfresh. If you don’t want to use the tablets, you can substitute a cup of bleach.

In the future, you can pre - vent mold by treating the washer monthly and keeping the door open between washing so the interior can dry out.

Two special people made tool donations to our library this month.

Thanks to Patricia Willis and Art Thompson

Two Handy Tips – Changing Spark Plugs and Keeping Your Washer Fresh

SWPC Community Calendar

SWPC Tool Librarian

By Ed Meyers, SWPC Tool Librarian

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Riverfront Transformation
continued from page 1
river or the neighborhood; it simply
reconstructed the cement wall that
takes today on the site. It was in
essence single-family architecture
applied to multifamily buildings.
The design was not of appropriate
scale, did not promote a “walkable”
development and did not incorpo-
rate the site’s assets.

Architects Barton Partners rec-
ognized the river, the city skyline
and the neighborhood as assets
that needed to be included in their
site plan.

In contrast, the new design
is tailored to the site. The plan
has 130 units with a mix of one,
two and three bedroom flats and
town homes. This will allow the
development to appeal to a broader
residential base and create a more
diverse community.

There are now six buildings
and a clubhouse. A 5-storey build-
ing over parking on the Ford Street
Bridge side is included. The five
three-storey buildings have been
placed on the site in different ways
in break up the “wall effect” and to
increase the river and city skyline
views.

The distinctive design does not
attempt to mimic anything. It is
very people scale and walkable.
It includes a generous use of win-
dows and porches. The flat roofs
provide more rooftop living and
reflect the nature of buildings on
the east side of Mt. Hope.

In addition, the design comple-
ments an already architecturally
diverse neighborhood. The Wedge
is an eclectic mix of architectu-
ral styles including 19th and
20th Century Vernacular, Queen
Anne, Bungalow, American Four
Square, Italianate, Greek revival,
art deco and modern.

The architectural connection
to the neighborhood is through
the use of architectural materials
(brick and “hardiplank”). There is
a liberal use of blues and yellows
for the coloring.

The existing 13-story tower
will be integrated with the new build-
ings by the use of a color pattern
consistent with that used in the
new buildings. The interior of the
high rise, renamed “The Hamil-
ton,” will be also be completely
remodeled.

Most important, the developer
intends to incorporate as many
“green” building practices as pos-
sible on the site.

The timeline now is to complete
the relocation of existing residents
before the end of the year, start
demolition in early 2009 and be-
gin construction in the summer of
2009 with occupancy in 2010.
This will provide additional
housing options for those who
wish to live in the South Wedge.
The new residents will no doubt
contribute to the sustainability of
our businesses and become part of
the fabric of the neighborhood.

River Park is dead! Long live
Erie Harbor and the Hamilton!