The South Wedge Farmers Market concluded its fifth successful season on October 20 and has once again joined forces with the Brighton Farmers’ Market to bring the Long Season Winter Farmers’ Market to the community.

Each year, farmers hear customers lament the end of the season and their inability to buy fresh, local food directly from the farmers. Area farmers have rallied to meet the growing demand for their food and will be harvesting a wide variety of crops well into the winter. They have built greenhouse-like high tunnels which protect tender plants from the cold while capturing the sun’s light and warmth. They have also adjusted planting schedules to permit later harvesting of hardier crops and have perfected storage techniques to preserve crops such as apples, winter squash, potatoes and onions.

As a result, they’ll be bringing a surprising variety of crops to the Long Season Winter Market: salad greens, carrots, turnips, spinach, Swiss chard, arugula, cabbage, beets, lettuce, radishes and winter squash. You’ll also find beans, herbs, micro greens, joi choi, bok choi, broccoli raab. Even more, you can add to your grocery list rutabaga, broccoli, leeks, scallions, mizuna, tatsou, mustard greens, escarole, eggs, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, apples, pears and sweet potatoes. Certified organic beef and pork; dairy including milk, yogurt, and cheese; baked goods; locally-produced pasta, honey, jams and jellies, granola, baking mixes and maple syrup; and alpaca yarn and herbal products will also be available.

Think holiday shopping, too, at the Long Season Market—quick holiday meals, tasty gifts and stocking stuffers. We’re already thinking spring with planning for next year’s South Wedge Farmers Market already begun. Please consider signing up for e-mail newsletters at www.swfarmersmarket.org so you don’t miss any news. You can also “like” the market’s Facebook page to receive updates. We welcome any comments, questions or suggestions to improve the market; you can reach us at info@swfarmersmarket.org.

Times & Directions:
The market is held Sunday afternoons 1 to 4 p.m., through December 18 at Brighton’s Brookside Recreation Center, 220 Idlewood Road. A second entrance opens on S. Winton Rd., south of the S. Winton/ Westfall Roads intersection (look for a white sign with Long Season’s Farmers Market.

South Wedge Snags Spots on City’s “Best of Rochester” Contest

South Wedge people, places and things made the cut in City Newspaper’s Best of Rochester 2011 contest. Here’s a list of some of the reasons why we think the greater South Wedge area is Rochester’s best place to live, work and play.

BEST SPECIALTY PIZZA
Napa Wood Fired Pizza
573 S. Clinton Avenue

BEST BREAKFAST SANDWICH
South Wedge Diner
880 S. Clinton Avenue

BEST TACO
John’s Tex Mex Eatery
490 South Avenue

BEST CLOTHING STORE
Thread
654 South Avenue

BEST DJ
Jan Herbert
jonherbert.net

BEST BAR FOR BEER
Tap & Mallet
381 Gregory Street

BEST BARBERSHOP
South Wedge Barbershop
720 South Avenue

BEST BARTENDER
Philip Rawleigh (Lux Lounge)
666 South Avenue

BEST DRINK SPECIALS
Lux Lounge
666 South Avenue

BEST NON-BAR HANGOUT
Boulder Coffee Co.
Alexander St., Park Ave., Genesee Street, Rochester Public Market
The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) has retained Bero Architecture PLLC to conduct a study of the Historic South Wedge architecture with the goal of creating at least one National Register-listed historic district. Business Association of the South Wedge Area (BASWA) President Sarah McCullough identified two seed projects: the Preservation League of New York, a grant program of the Preservation League of New York and the New York State Council on the Arts.

As of 2009, owners of historically-listed houses or those in whose census tracts can take at advantage of state tax credits for preservation projects, anything from a new roof or paint job to removal of inappropriate siding. Several Linden Street residents, where a National Register district was established in 2009, have taken advantage of this program to defray the costs of home projects. State and federal credits for rehabilitation of historic commercial buildings are available.

While only a handful of South Wedge properties may be eligible for theRegister for individual district listing, I’m also researching properties whose significance is not visible from the street. For example, the homes of notable people or sites of important events.

People are interested about the difference between National Register listing and Historic District designation. These are totally separate processes. Owners of properties in these Districts, such as the District at the intersection between South Avenue and Gregory Street must seek city preservation board approval to make exterior alterations. This does not affect nor-

A City-designated preservation district means that all owners are held to consistent standards, so a neighbor can’t make a change that affects your property without a public hearing. The City created design guidelines for owners in these preservation districts, providing guidance on alterations.

National Register districts, on the other hand, don’t impose review requirements (except when state or federal funding is permitting is involved) but also don’t protect property owners from inappropriate changes to neighboring private properties.

A National Register listing is no disadvantage for private homeowners. If you want to paint, restore, re-roof, remove aluminum siding or even doze your National Register-listed house (but please, don’t!), you can do so with no governmental penalty or review. If you believe your building may be historically signifi-

Colin Coffey, massage therapist, Reiki practitioner and owner of Renewing Massage recently announced the creation of South Wedge Wellness, LLC in his 19th century building at 728 South Avenue. The new company is co-owned by Coffey and his husband Michael Benebrofosco.

Coffey’s goal is to secure “a long term home for alternative preventive healthcare services in the South Wedge.”

Shawn Lawton, LMT, a nationally certified massage therapist who lives with his wife in the South Wedge, will be joining the practice.

“There is a great opportuni-

Highland Park Bodyworks Opens in Cornell Co-op

Meghan Cameron has had a busy year. She celebrated her first year of marriage in October to Christopher Cameron, executive chef at the Tap & Mal-

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Heart of the City
by Nancy O’Donnell

NSC Administrator Nancy Johns Price, CPO Anthony Bongiovanni and NSC office manager Mandy Vasquez. (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)

Anthony Bongiovanni Promoted to Sergeant

The Southeast Neighborhood Service Center (SENSC) recently said goodbye to Crime Prevention Officer Anthony “Bongi” Bongiovanni who was promoted to Sergeant and reassigned to downtown headquarters.

The 16-year police veteran spent the last 11 years as a Crime Prevention Officer first on Webster Avenue and for the last two years at SENSCE.

“I grew up off Clifford Avenue and saw police officers all the time,” said the Sergeant. “They were role models. They’d drive our schools, talk to kids and let us look inside their squad cars. I’d see them breaking up fights.”

While the new Sergeant was in high school, the RFPD’s Community Policing Division approached Edison Tech for “scholar” aspect who could speak to grammar school students. As captain of the baseball team and the “inventor” football team, Bongiovanni was the natural choice. “I talked to fifth graders at School 550 about making good grades, staying away from drugs, staying on the Honor Roll and getting into sports.”

A career in law enforcement soon followed. Though Sergeant Bongi has moved on from the day-to-day life of a crime prevention officer, and he’s enjoying his new job at the Headquarters front desk, he has some words of advice for his successor.

“A CPO should be caring. Slow down, be a good listener. Be caring and be approachable especially to the kids and stay approachable no matter how much the work load increases. We have to try to help to make the streets safe for the kids and the citizens living and working in the neighborhood.”

Nancy Sawyer-Molina
South America Bound

Sawyer-Molina was promoted to Sergeant and reassigned to downtown headquarters. She was part of the Headquarters front desk, he said. He’s enjoying his new job at the Headquarters front desk, he said. He’s enjoying his new job at the Headquarters front desk, he said. He’s enjoying his new job at the Headquarters front desk, he said.
**Meet Oscar Ortiz**

By Nancy O’Donnell

The City of Rochester Southeast Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) on South Clinton Avenue welcomed AmeriCorps Vista volunteer Oscar Ortiz to help in its efforts to engage area youth. A native of the Washington Heights neighborhood of New York City, Ortiz came to Western New York as a student at SUNY Brockport.

“I first tried accounting, but numbers weren’t my thing,” says Ortiz. “I wanted to try something that sounded like fun.”

After graduating with a degree in Recreation and Leisure Studies in May 2011, Ortiz found himself “without a plan set in stone,” so he joined AmeriCorps Vista. “I heard it was a great opportunity to gain workforce experience while helping out the community. Also, I wanted to stay in the area as I had made a large number of friends in Rochester over the past years.”

At NSC, Ortiz works to engage youth, 14-18, in service learning projects through the Citizen Explorer after-school program.

“We send them into the community to research its needs and team up with local residents,” Ortiz said. “The program fosters self-development and helps youth become more aware of where they’re headed in life. It helps them to build job readiness skills as well as preparing them for college.”

Outside of work, Ortiz enjoys food of all kinds, catching up with old friends and working out. Ortiz says he’s using this year to decide on what’s next—another year with AmeriCorps or grad school. Whatever it is, he’ll be looking forward to it.

**More Business Buzz**

(continued from page 2)

New Magix on South Avenue

she’s minding the store that re-located from Culver Road.

Ponder, who recently graduated with a law degree, is also a well-known singer in such bands as Black August and Filthy Fush.

The talented brother-sister team have stocked Magix with both new designers and one-of-a-kind vintage pieces.

Other big sellers are back- packs made from unusual fabrics that range in price from $24- $30. Ngyeria Rose’s customized earrings are also available here.

Opening night local designer Chrysalis Torres, stopped to check out the new digs. Her trademark "papini bowties" for men will soon be in stock at Magix.

Housewares include vibrant Ghana-influenced cloth pillows and belts made by He- kima, a designer in Brooklyn, NY. Clothing by Hekima was featured on the Future Point dance troupe during Rochester’s recent Fashion Week.

Danielle Ponder (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)

Danielle Ponder said that her brother Elijah Ponder, owner of Magix, is a new clothing and home decorating store on South Avenue, “eats, breathes and sleeps fashion.” He’s also building a construction company, so

**Wedge Want Ads Deliver**

*Jazzy Motorized Chair for Sale! Never been driven, $600 or best offer. First come, first served.*

For more information, call Rob at 589-310-6108.

**FOR SALE - $72,500**

257 Congress Ave.

- 1,162 sq. ft. home completely remodeled
- 3 bedrooms on the second floor
- Spacious kitchen with new cabinets, counters, plumbing, flooring
- Large dining room with laminate floor
- Spacious living room with New Green Labeled carpeting
- One completely remodeled bathroom on the second floor with new tub/shower, vanity and commode
- Green Labeled carpeting on the stairs and second floor bedrooms
- Freshly painted walls and ceilings with low VOC paint
- New energy efficient light fixtures throughout
- Generous front porch overlooking the front yard
- Resurfaced blacktop driveway
- One car garage
- Circuit breakers with 150 amp electric panel
- Energy efficient 40 gallon gas hot water heater
- High efficiency gas, forced air furnace
- 93% high efficiency gas, forced air furnace
- 150 amp electric panel
- Spacious 1-car garage
- Green Labeled carpeting
- New energy efficient windows throughout
- New roof with architectural shingles
- New maintenance free vinyl siding and trim wrapped in aluminum

For more information, call George Lorson 256-1740 X 101

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**Community Builders**

**Gallery Space Available for Local Artists**

The South Wedge Planning Committee office at 224 Mt. Hope Avenue is offering gallery space for local artists who want to host openings. Currently, the SWPC gallery will be available quarterly. For more information, contact SWPC Vice-Chair Donna Roethel Lenhard at 489-7955.

Senator Robach Annual Clothes Drive on Dec. 6.

Republican State Senator Joe Robach will be collecting new or gently worn winter arti-

们 for the “From One Closet to Another Coats for Kids Clothes Drive” this winter. Donations accepted beginning December 16. Robach will be donating items to the Greece Ecumenical Cloths Closet, which is in “great need” for children’s winter coats, hats, gloves, mittens, and boots – all sizes for both boys and girls. For more information, contact Paula Kosiorek at 225-3650.

**Calvary St. Andrews Parish Holiday Appeal**

Will you consider donating a turkey/ham for Christmas? Do you have friends or family members who like to share in the holiday spirit by giving to others? We need turkeys and/or hams, cans of cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes, pineapples, grace-

s, coffee, brownie mixes and bags of holiday candy.

Please consider spearhead-

ing a food drive in your neigh-

borhood or workplace. You can also donate money either through our web site www.

calvarystandrews.org or Paypal account or drop a check in the mail to Calvary St. Andrew’s 68 Ashland Street Rochester, NY 14620.

**Highland Park Winter Farmers Market**

The Market is held on Wednesdays until May 2 at Monroe County Cornell Cooperative Extension, 249 Highland Avenue, 3-6 p.m. Visit www.

highlandwimarket.com for updates.

**Tips on How to Be a Good Neighbor!**

**Give Your Neighbor a Break!** When parking along the curb, remember to allow space for residents to enter their driveways. Leave a five-foot minimum space between your car and the driveway.


Dog poop is toxic to grass. It is not fertilizer. The EPA classifies pet waste as a dangerous pollutant. When it rains, dog poop can become part of our water supply.

**Keep it Down!** Noise is a common complaint. Before you turn up the volume remember city ordinance requires noise should not be audible beyond your property line between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m. Noise should not be audible beyond 50 feet of your property line between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.

**Business Owners Need To Know** They are responsible for the maintenance of their prop-

erty including the right of way (the street, sidewalk and the area between the sidewalk and curb.) This includes removal of trash, leaves, snow and animal feces. When businesses remove snow and ice, it should never be on the sidewalk, roadway, against a fire hydrant or bus stop. Toters should not be out earlier than the evening before trash pickup day, and they must be returned 24 hours after pick up.

For more helpful tips on ways to improve the quality of life in our community, contact the Southeast Neighborhood Center, 846 South Clinton Avenue, 428-7649.

**YWCA Adopt a Family Program**

YWCA will provide you with a list of family members including information such as ages, gender and gift wishes. Purchase and wrap the gifts and bring to the YWCA. Non-

perishable food baskets and gift cards are welcome. For further information, call April Adams at 348-2261.

**Salvation Army Toys for Tots**

Groups from churches only need to send a request on letter-

head stationary indicating the ages, up to 12, and gender of children who would like gifts. Requests should be addressed to Major Charles Dietrich, P.O. Box 4120, Rochester, NY 14604.

To Adopt a Family call Chris Di-

notta, 987-9540, ext. 223. Bell Ringers are also needed for Toy Shop setup and distri-

bution, call Rosemary Davis 987-9540, ext. 2303.

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**The Wedge December 2011/January 2012**
Where in the World is Mr. Wheeler?

Will the real Mr. D. Wheeler please stand up, please stand up. During Wedgestock 2011, a lucky Mr. D. Wheeler won the Super Duper Smoker Labatt Blue Grill. A message was left on his phone that day to give him the good news, but as yet he’s not called in to claim his prize. As much as we’d like to save the grill for him until barbecue weather comes back, we will pick another lucky winner ticket the night of the South Wedge Open House on January 20 if he hasn’t claimed it by then (proof of identity required).

So Mr. W., please give us a call at 257-1740, ext. 105.

Fun Stuff

Introducing Plastics by Deana Costanza

Plastic, opening October 1 at 450 South Avenue, specializes in designer toys, produced in limited editions (as few as 10 or as many as 2000 pieces) and created by artists and designers. The toys are most commonly made of plastic or vinyl, but can also incorporate other materials, such as wood, resin, or plush. Creators of designer toys usually have backgrounds in graphic design, illustration or pop surrealism/lowbrow art.

A popular example of designer toys is the Dunny series, produced by the American company Kidrobot. ‘Dunny’ toys are a series of 3” figures sold in blind boxes, along with the odds ratio of finding each one. All figures in the series are displayed on the side of the box, along with the odds ratio of finding each one.

Plastic also participates in the First Friday Citywide Gallery Nights, featuring one-of-a-kind custom toys created by local artists, and hosts DIY nights, at which attendees have the opportunity to create their own designer toys.

The Beale will also feature a “Mardi Gras Tuesday,” the first Tuesday of every month with music and drink specials. Both restaurants will be extending their hours.

Come check out what’s new and delicious!

Please contact Terry Bauer for details (585) 507-4856.

Highland Library News

The Highland Park Branch Library invites children ages 2-4 to story times, songs, puppets and more on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Register at 428-5227.

On Friday, December 2, 9 a.m. – 10 p.m., Barnes & Noble Libraries Book Fair’s will support the area libraries. Mention our library at checkout, and we get a portion of the sale! Day long activities for kids and grown ups. Support us online at bn.com/book fairs from 12/2/11 to 12/7/11 by entering Bookfair ID 10576619 at checkout.

More on the way!
**THE ARTFUL GARDENER**

Not just for gardeners! Of course they have a spectacular selection of garden accents and home decor, but did you know The Artful Gardener has a selection of unique and beautiful gifts? Artists, both local and regional, are represented in sculpture, pottery, fused glass and more. In addition, many fair-trade items handmade of recycled materials make great gifts that give back to people in need and the environment. 727 Mt. Hope Ave. 355-4950.

**THE CHRISTOPHER GROUP**

Stop killing yourself over taxes and bookkeeping. Let the Christopher Group suffer for you and do the work. 473 South Avenue, 325-7351.

**CAVALRY’S IRISH PUB**

Invite friends and family to enjoy a pint of Guinness and some delightful food. It’s better than fruitcake! 741 South Avenue, 278-1289.

**CINEMA THEATER**


**ECHO TONE MUSIC**

A Fender Starcaster Strat or Dean Playmate acoustic 3/4 size guitar for kids makes a great gift for the Holidays. Banjos, drums, ukuleles, microphones and more at affordable prices compared to the big stores. The friendly staff offers personal customer service. 571 South Ave. 454-2160. www.echotone音乐.net.

**EQUAL-GROUNDS COFFEE**

Proudly selling organically grown, fair-trade coffees and teas for 5 years! Equal-Grounds offers teas and locally roasted coffees for sale by the pound and half pound. Gifts include jewelry, clothing, travel mugs and original art works. 750 South Avenue, 242-7840, www.equalgrounds.com.

**FOOT HILL LIQUOR**

Save with a 10% coupon in your Wedge Newspaper on any purchase while you’re stocking up on holiday libations. 1520 Mt. Hope Ave. 244-6160.

**FULL MOON VISTA BIKES**

Bikes and accessories for the whole family. 661 South Avenue. 546-4030.

**GLOVERS BARBER SHOP**

Buy a hair cut for a friend or family member. On Tuesdays, seniors pay only 16 for a haircut. 700 South Avenue. 244-8928.

**HEDONIST ARTISAN CHOCOLATES**

The truffles in the Holiday Truffle Collection are inspired by the owners’ seasonal memories and family traditions. Share these sophisticated flavors with your loved ones and create some memorable moments of your own! Flavors include Champagne Pomegranate, Egg Nog, Fig, Ginger Molasses and Orange Clove. 654 South Avenue, 585-461-2815 www.hedonistchocolates.com.

**HISTORIC HOUSEPARTS**


**JOHN’S TEX MEX EATERY**


**LIN’S GARDEN**

Delight a friend with a few evenings of takeout Chinese, Sushi and Thai cuisine. Gift cards and catering available. 420 Mt. Hope Ave. 232-8320.

**LITTLE VENICE**

Pizza pies and chicken wings make great dinners when you’re too busy wrapping. 742 South Ave. 473-8710.

**LUX LOUNGE**

A laid back little neighborhood bar with a funky flair. Gift a friend with a visit or buy long sleeve shirts and children’s t-shirts that make everyone feel warm and look cool. 666 South Avenue. 232-9030, Lux666.com.

**MAGIX**

New and old styles mix and mingle in this hot new clothing store in the South Wedge. 653 South Ave. 654-5929.

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Holiday Shopping Guide

Side of the Mall Gift Box

To help you find gifts: certificates for a great lunch or dinner, gift certificates on the path to better health with passes for yoga, o yummy bread delivered right to their doors or help them

MARIANNE’S
Recycled fashion gently used
Clothing and footwear. 792 South
Clinton Ave. 442-6910.

MISE EN PLACE
Gourmet takeaway prepared
meals and great specialty foods
from Robert Rothschild. Stonewall
Kitchen, Baklaim, Creative Snacks
and more. Perfect for gift bas-
kets or stockings! They also have
a wonderful holiday beer selection!
Serving breakfast sandwiches, lunch and dinner Monday-Saturday
9-9. 683 South Ave. 325-4160.

NAPA WOOD FIRED PIZZA
Buy someone a pizza voted “best
specialty pizza” in City’s “Best
of Rochester”: 573 S. Clinton Av-
Ave. 232-4558.

NEEDLE DROP RECORDS
A new independent record, audi-
ogear and handmade goods shop.
304 Gregory Street. 654 South Ave.
232-3050.

OPEN FACE SANDWICH
EATERY!
The sandwiches! The cookies! Open
your mouth and order a lot.
Taft’s coffee and a lot of Mos-
a, too. 651 South Avenue, 232-
3050.

PERIOD BATH SUPPLY COMPANY
Vintage style and modern conve-
ince. Antiques and new bathroom
fixtures and accessories, plus or-
ganic bath and body products. Gift
Certificates available. 528 South
Avenue. 325-2264. www.period-
bath.com.

PLASTICS
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als, such as wood, resin, or plush.
Creators of designer toys usually
have backgrounds in graphic de-
sign, illustration or pop surrealism.
Lawlor Art. 650 South Avenue.
563-6348.

RENENUING MASSAGE
Holiday Gift Certificates for a Re-
newing-Massage are a great way
to take the stress out of the holidays
and for the person you give to!
Simple, easy and greatly
appreciated at only $50 for an
hour or 30 minutes! 709-

THE SWEDGE SHOP
All things South Wedge from art
to soap to maps to t-shirts. Every
penny goes back into the community
to support the Business
Association of the South
Wedge Area’s many cultural and
community events and projects.
732 South Avenue.

SOLERA WINE BAR
Give the gift of an evening out at the
divine Solera Wine Bar. Don’t
forget to order the cheese plate!
547 South Avenue, 232-3070.

SOUTH WEDGE BARBER SHOP
Give the whole family with a trim,
cut, color or curl. The South Wedge
Barber Shop was voted Roch-
chester’s Best Barber shop in City
Newspaper’s 2011 contest, and
there’s a reason. Open Tues-
Fri 12-6ish. Sat. 10-3ish. 720 South
Ave. 473-5510.

SOUTH WEDGE COLONY BAR & GRILL
Treat a friend to an amazing late
night menu including mac and
cheese that will make their eye roll
(in the nicest way). 503 South A-
vie. Monday-Saturday 7 p.m. – 2 a.m.

ST. JOSEPH HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY
Donate in a friend’s name and buy
a meal for the hungry. 402 South

ST. JOSEPH NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
Buy the gift of good health for some-
one else. 417 South Ave.
325-5260.

TANGO CAFE DANCE STUDIO
Give a gift that keeps on giv-
ing throughout the year. Sign up
for dance classes such as Zumba,
Cardio Kick, Guts Butts
and Thighs, and Power Up. We also
staff several Licensed Massage
Therapists to meet all of your mas-
sage therapy needs. We believe it
is important for everyone to re-
cieve massage on a regular basis,
but understand that not everyone
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national radar. We believe
in Rochester” 2011 contest. 381
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Nativity Preparatory Academy Welcomes Grades 5-8

By Principal Dianne Crowley

Nativity Preparatory Academy, an independent Catholic Middle School, opened its doors in September 2009 in the former St. Boniface School on Whalin Street. Our first students were 21 fifth and sixth grade students. In September 2010 we added a seventh grade, and this September 2011 we added an eighth grade which is our final grade. We are now looking forward to our first graduating class in June of 2012.

Nativity Prep is one of 64 schools around the country that offer a Preparatory education for students living in urban settings and coming from economically challenged families. The school is sponsored by McQuaid Jesuit High School and the Sisters of St. Joseph. Tuition is low and is based on each family’s individual financial situation. The mission of Nativity is to prepare students to enter college. Nativity Prep has a unique educational design. The school day begins at 7:30a.m. and ends at 4:30p.m. The ten-hour day includes 60-90 minute homework period. Teachers stay until 4:30p.m. everyday to assist students with homework. The last hour of the day is an enrichment period where students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports, clubs, Lego League or other activities. Twice a month Nativity offers Saturday classes, which are required to attend. These classes provide enrichment experiences which supplement the core subject areas.

We also have over 55 tutors throughout the week. Some are area retirees while others are students from the University of Rochester, St. John Fisher and Nazareth Colleges. These tutors work with individual students helping with homework and skill review.

In addition to the academic year, students are also required to attend a three-weeks summer camp session, which includes two week of remediation and enrichment and one week at an overnight camp. Nativity Prep strives to build leaders. Respect, responsibility, gratitude, spirituality and scholarship are key virtues that we address on a daily basis in our assembly and throughout the day. Service to the community is another important component in our curriculum.

You can often see our students running through the neighborhood during their cross country practice or on their way to the Marie Daley Park on Gregory Street. We are glad to be a part of such a friendly, diverse neighborhood.

For more information about the Academy, call (585) 271-1630 or visit online at www.nativityrochester.org.

The South Wedge Planning Committee is happy to announce the Second Annual South Wedge Holiday Decorating Contest! Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or New Year decorations will be considered, no entry form required. All South Wedge homes and blocks are eligible, and you get to vote for the winning block! Renters, please don’t be shy, you can vote too!

The Best Block receives $100 for 2012 Block Club projects. All decorations must be up by the end of Sunday, December 11. Voting will take place on www.southwedge.org from December 11 - December 18. In addition, South Wedge Block Clubs will award a “Best House Award” to one house on each block. Winners receive a cool BASWA (Business Association of the South Wedge Area) gift bag filled with goodies.

Remember though fancy lights are nice and bright, you don’t need them to win! Judges will be considering all decorations on homes and streets: wreaths, flower boxes, windows, the whole holiday package. Winning houses and street will be announced on December 19 on southwedge.org, and swpc.org and also be featured in the February/March issue of the Wedge Newspaper. Awards will be presented at the SWPC Open House on January 20.

For more information, contact Angela Clark-Taylor, Community Engagement Committee Chair at a.clark-taylor@hotmail.com.
In Memoriam

John Mars 1923-2011

The family would like to thank the nurses and staff at the VA, Wolk Manor, Jewish Home and Hospice for loving care, and compassion. Donations in remembrance of John may be made to the restoration of the Children’s Pavilion at Highland Park, a special project of the Highland Park Conservancy, 180 Reservoir Drive, Rochester, New York 14620, www.highlandparkconservancy.org/childrens-pavilion.aspx.

By Susan Mars

One of 13 children, John Mars was born on August 17, 1923. He served during World War II. After the war, he studied at Ohio State University and later worked as a Lieutenant in the Rochester City Fire Department. He owned and operated H&M Contractors. In later worked at B&L Wholesale Supply, Inc.

John was active at the VFW in Bath, NY and Rochester, NY, and an active member of St. Boniface Church and the St. Boniface Men’s Club.

He was predeceased by his wife Matilda (Salvi). Survivors include his children: Bonita French, Jack Mars, Susan Mars, Mary Ellen Latour, Gary Mars and Jeffrey Mars; sister Anna Calveric, Tom Dlugosh (Jan-ice), Virginia Lott and sister-in-law Antoinette Schreib; his grandchildren Aimee, Enoch, Kristen, Rachael, Katie, Justin, Sean, Christina, Spencer, Haley and Ryan; great grandchildren Paul, Anthony, Nina, Julianne, Gianna, and many nieces and nephews. All will miss his ready smile and gentle teasing.
Bumper-2-Bumper
By Paul Gardner

Welcome to BUMPER-2-BUMPER. This question and answer column will try to an-
swer questions about cars, parts and service that have been
burning inside you for a long
time. I’ll answer each and every
question I receive, either within
the column or in a letter or per-
sonal e-mail. I won’t use your
name other than initials or an
identifier you’ve chosen.

Having been in the auto-
motive business for over 30
years, I’ve pretty much heard
it all at least once, but every so
often, I get a new one.

Until I start hearing from
you, here are a few answers to
common winter tire questions.

Q. Do I really need snow tires?
A. Yes. All vehicles whether
they are front wheel, rear wheel
or all wheel drive benefit from
four snow tires. You need to get
into the snow to get proper trac-
ton. Traction is everything. The
narrower the tire the better.

Q. Will winter tires help me
handle and stop better?
A. Yes. This is where snow
tires benefit you the most – stop-
ing and making turns. Notice
the difference when you walk
on snow or ice wearing smooth
leather soles as opposed to
cleat-soled winter shoes. Get my
point?

Q. Are winter tires expensive?
A. No. They vary in cost accord-
ing to tire size and whether or
not you choose to get additional
rims to mount them on. Typical-
ly, they cost no more than your
collision deductible.

Final advice: You are al-
ways safer driving in the winter
with good winter tires. Pay at-
tention when you see vehicles
off the road in a ditch. Many of
them have AWD SUVs that have
too wide a tire or alleged “all
season” tires. Just because you
have AWD doesn’t mean you
don’t need traction. Popular
brands to consider are Dunlop,
Bridgestone, Nokian, and Fires-
tone to name a few.*

Don’t hesitate to send ques-
tions and comments to pgard-
ner83@gmail.com or mail them
c/o The Wedge Newspaper, 224
Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, New
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“QUALITY. AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR PERSONS 50 YEARS OR OLDER OR OTHERWISE QUALIFIED”
The Roc City Skatepark Promises Tourist Boon to South Wedge

By Jim Maddison

For the past four years, the Friends of the Roc City Skatepark (FRCS) have been working in earnest to realize the vision of the largest skatepark in North America right here in Rochester, built under and adjacent to the east side of the base of the Frederick Douglass – Susan B. Anthony Memorial Bridge.

As of November 2011, the project is included in the City of Rochester’s Capital Improvement Project budget for the year 2015. However, the Friends of RCS have a 36-month plan to build the skatepark.

The Phase I Conceptual Design was completed with $6,075 raised by the organization. The Phase II Detailed Design is funded with $50,000 from the City of Rochester; the design is anticipated to take 14 weeks. Next, our goal is to sell the naming rights to obstacles in the park and raise another $200,000 needed for creation.

The Friends of the Roc City Skatepark promote the skatepark for a variety of reasons. First and foremost is the safety of our children. In 1988, The City made skateboarding illegal. After 23 years no safe skate spots exist in the City. Asking children to stop skateboarding is akin to asking birds to stop flying. Well over 90% of all catastrophic skateboard injuries and death occur in urban areas and involve a motor vehicle. Failure to build means that city streets will continue to be used as a skatepark.

In safe skate spots, skateboarding is statistically safer than football, basketball, baseball, soccer and hockey. The exercise benefits of skateboarding are equal to running a 12 minute mile, and kids skateboard for hours and hours. The state of poor health among our children, especially obesity, borders on an epidemic with 39% of City children overweight or obese.

Public, free, open access skateparks are ubiquitous around the country—even in the northeast—and there has never been a successful lawsuit against a private or public skatepark. The City of Rochester has agreed to assume liability and make the Roc City Skatepark a municipal enterprise. Meanwhile, The Friends of the Roc City Skatepark will continue to raise money and do special events.

Imagine the tourism if the largest skatepark in North America (72,000 square feet) is built here. It will bring value to the community for years to come. In addition, a skatepark will keep people downtown longer. The park we envision is as friendly to pedestrians as it is to people participating in progression oriented sports.

The cost of ongoing care for a park made of concrete and other hard surfaces (e.g. granite) is negligible, at best. As a general rule, it costs $1,000 for every 1,000 square feet. The amount of $7,000 per year is a small request for a facility like this. In addition, a non-profit organization has formed to raise money for special events, outreach, and advocacy. The Friends of the Roc City Skatepark envision an entire skatepark system!

FRCS envision the park as a “plaza” style skatepark, rather than a purely cement skatepark. Obstacles will essentially be skateable art.” Rest assured, the Roc City Skatepark will be built for everybody to enjoy and will be a source of pride for the city for years to come.

For more information, please see our web page at www.roccitypark.org.
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