SW Farmers Market Open for Healthy Shopping
by Sue Gardner Smith

It’s hard to think of a more welcome harbinger of summer than the return of the South Wedge Farmers Market, opening this year on June 2. Mother Nature has put our hardy farmers to the test this year. The cold, rainy spring delayed their ability to work the fields, but you can be sure they’re up to the challenges of unpredictable weather. They’ll especially appreciate the support of their loyal customers this year, and will reward that support with a bounty of delicious fresh produce grown using sustainable methods of agriculture. Imagine the pleasure of that first juicy local strawberry, stalk of asparagus or handful of tender peas.

Opening day festivities include the traditional tossing of the lettuce to launch the market’s fifth season; the lucky catcher of the toss will receive a bag full of treats from the market. Several neighborhood pastors will once again offer a blessing on the market. Participating pastors include Rev. Ghislaine Cotnoir of Peace Lutheran Church, Pastor Scott Austin of Artisan Church and Rev. Judy Lee Hay of Calvary St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. Live music will be provided by the popular local jazz combo Affinity.

Rising food prices every year make farmers markets an even better value. The market will offer a special Bonus Program for EBT customers this year. Any EBT customer who purchases at least $10 in tokens will receive a $5 bonus to spend at the market (limit one bonus per day per family). This program is made possible by a grant from the US Department of Agriculture and will be offered as long as funds are available.

Free transportation to the market, sponsored by Medical Motor Services, is also available this season. Anyone who wishes can pick up the free Market Shuttle, which stops at Pinnacle Place Apartments on S. Clinton on market days at 4 p.m., at Southview Towers at 4:30 p.m., and The Hamilton at 5 p.m. The shuttle runs continuous return trips and will be wheelchair accessible.

The market welcomes several new vendors for the 2011 season. Brothers Max and Trystan Sandvoss, of First Light Farm & Creamery in East Bethany, will offer goats’ milk cheeses from their own goats, and cows’ milk cheeses made with milk from neighboring farms. Keith Myers of Flour City Bread will bring his popular artisan breads and pastries. JonJohn’s Bakery, will offer treats such as sweet potato tarts and peanut butter balls. St. Joe’s Bakery Project will join the market with a variety of South Wedge-baked breads. Whitney Farms in Avon will bring certified organic, grass-fed beef and pork to the market for the first time and Fasta Classics adds ravioli and other pastas. We also welcome Ambrosia Acres Family Farm and Burning Bush Gardens, two new farmers joining the market, who offer pesticide-free vegetables.

This year, market customers will have a chance to try new fresh produce, including the traditional tossing of the heirloom tomato. And since South Wedge Farmers Market is open every Saturday from June 2 through October 1, this is the perfect time to try something fresh from the market.

St. Boniface Parish Celebrates 150 Years
By Paula Kirchgessner

St. Boniface Parish celebrates its 150th anniversary on Sunday, June 5, the feast of its patron saint, St. Boniface. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be the celebrant and homilist at the 10:30 a.m. Jubilee Mass. A picnic on the church grounds will immediately follow for those attending the Mass.

Invitations have been extended to all present and former parishioners via area church bulletins. In addition, invitations have been sent to all the priests and religious who have served at St. Boniface, as well as to all its sons and daughters in religious vocations, the leadership of the various religious orders and area Catholic High Schools. State, city and county leaders, Boy & Girl Scouts, South Wedge Planning Committee, neighboring nursing homes, and local churches are also invited to join in the celebration.

St. Boniface Parish One hundred and fifty years ago, the German Catholic people of the South Wedge of Rochester saw a need to have a parish closer to where they lived. Until 1859 they worshiped at St. Joseph’s downtown. In 1859, SWPC

Erie Harbor Wall Raising Celebration
See story on page 14

BIGGER and BETTER
WEDGESTOCK 2011
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011
Star of the Wedge –
Michael Trojan
By Nancy O’Donnell

Take a walk down South Avenue, and Michael Trojan’s contribution to South Wedge revitalization stands three stories high. As Konar Properties Director of Commercial Properties, he helped to usher in South and Hickory Place, a $4.8 million development featuring mixed-use buildings, on the upper floors.

“Howard Konar’s quality approach to architecture was what I liked,” said Trojan. “It wasn’t a cookie cutter approach. It used expensive materials not generic parts.”

Trojan, a native Midwesterner earned his first degree in engineering at Valparaiso University in Indiana. He later earned a M.B.A. in project management from Northwestern University in Chicago.

He met his future wife Karoline when they were freshman in college. “She was cute, and she put up with my nonsense,” laughed Trojan. The couple married in 1994.

Early on Karoline worked in the clothing merchandising business, becoming a stay-at-home mom to raise their three sons. Civil engineering became less interesting over time, so Trojan said as he realized he was “tired of the details, working over the thickness of the wood” used in a project.”

“I like the big picture, pulling it all together. It’s fun working with architects and the landscape artists and the contractors.”

By 2003, his corporate life was becoming less attractive as he spent most of his time flying to Canada, Miami and Toronto.

The idea to move from the Midwest grew more attractive through the couple’s frequent visits to their 120-acre vacation home in the Finger Lakes.

“I like nature. We’d hike in the woods and do nothing,” Trojan said. “I liked the area, and we thought why not Rochester?”

Trojan eventually turned to the Rochester Business Journal’s Book of Lists, a reference guide to Rochester’s top companies and business leaders. He liked what he read about Konar’s business, applied, and was hired in 2003.

During that same year, the South Wedge Planning Committee members approached Konar about a plan for South Avenue after watching his construction of Elmwood Manor townhouses along Highland Avenue. Over the next several years, SWPC worked with Konar Properties and the City of Rochester to make the project a reality.

Trojan managed the project—“dates to be delivered, finding tenants, leasing.”

“It’s not so much of filling (South and Hickory), but filling it with the right people,” he said. “The existing businesses have track records, and it’s important that the new ones be successful and sustainable. Zak’s Avenue is a little cooler than Parkleigh. Full Moon Vista bike shop is a huge success.”

Even after Trojan joined the SWPC board, he continued to look for other areas to volunteer his time and talent. “I wanted to give back to the community.”

“I also volunteer on the Al Sigl Facility Committee. I thought Sigl was a very unique agency helping other agencies, so said Trojan.

When he’s not working or volunteering, Trojan spends time with Karoline, their three sons, Aaron, 14, Henry, 11 and Seth, 8, along with Muensterlander hunting dog “Wrigley.”

Current at-home revitalization projects include renovating their 162-year-old barn on his property in Pittsford.

A healthy city begins with healthy neighborhoods. We in the Wedge have a 20-year head start on some of Rochester’s other areas due to the coordination and hard work of residents, business owners and neighbor groups. The South Avenue and South Clinton Avenue corridors are thriving, the Highland Park Neighborhood Association is a strong, viable, neighborhood group, and Swillburg was the only recipient of a Small Grant awarded in Fall 2010. All of our neighborhoods are enjoying favorable housing and rental markets.

But the sluggish economy and financial peril of New York State will require all of us to regroup, re-evaluate, prioritize and consolidate services.

Peeling paint, aging roofs and general dilapidation will always be a problem for older neighborhood homes. The reality is that the pool of public resources will dwindle. A sense of cooperation and efficiency will all of us in maintaining the progress we in the Wedge have already achieved. None of us formed a vacant house project in isolation.

Developers, landlords, homeowners, tenants and agencies must respect each other, and dialogue must happen for all of us to get where our neighborhoods need us to go.

The South Wedge Planning Committee’s office and meetings are always open to the public. Please join a committee. We have several: Commercial and Economic Development, Community Engagement (Neighbors & Block Clubs), Finance Team, Housing & Structures, Marketing & Membership and the South Wedge Farmers Market Advisory Committee. The WedgeStock 2011 Committee is currently planning for our August street festival. Information about dates, times and place and committee members can be found in each Wedge Newspaper (see below).

We invite your interest, concerns, expertise or time constraints, there is always something you can contribute. Be part of the solution.

Donna Roethel Lenhard SWPC Vice Co-chair

South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc.
June - July 2011 Community Calendar

All meetings are held at 224 Mt. Hope Avenue, except noted.

SFPC Board Meeting: 124 Mt. Hope Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620
(585) 256-1744
Officers
Tanya Zwickel, Chair
Monica Block, Vice Chair
Donna Roethel Lenhard, Vice Co-Chair
Anthony Scrafford, Treasurer
Sarah Johnson, Secretary

Board Members
Karrie Czaja, Neighborhoods
Teresa Ann Clark, Neighborhoods
Jason Curtis, Neighborhoods
Angela DiDonato, Business
Dave Halter, Business
Chris Hernkel, Neighborhoods
Chris James, Business
Tom Kicior, Vice Chair
Frank Logan, Neighborhood
Ben Munson, Neighborhood
James Pappas, Neighborhood
Heather Penrose, Neighborhood
Michael Trojan, Stakeholder

History
Michelle Czarnecki, John Dennis, Joe DiDonato, Mick McDowell

Staff
Exective Director Robert Boyd, Allison Clark, Parks
Karen Ann Lomen, Nancy O’Donnell, Sue Gardner Smith, Eilleen Thomas

Consultants
Norm Kasten, SDRC SUNY Geneseo
Dish Burns, Bookkeeper

Wedge Newspaper
Nancy O’Donnell, Joe Wierzbowski

Alison Clark, Layout

Wedge Comic
Jason Hobbie

Writers
Bob Boyd, Laurie Jenkins, Jennifer Ivory, Paula Tuchman, Tonya Zwickel, Donna O’Donnell, Rose O’Keeffe, James Papa-

nus, Heather Penrose, Michelle Vaupkar

Photography

To reach Wedge, call (585) 256-1744 ext. 103
Fax (585) 256-1497
Reach us online at: http://www.southwedge.org

The Wedge Newspaper, a not-for-profit newspaper, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), a grassroots organization and the South Wedge Urban Village. Its mission is to provide accurate and timely news as well as local, state and national news relevant to the community.

The Wedge is printed bi-monthly (February, April, June, August, October) and maintains a circulation of 7,000. The newspaper is mailed to South Wedge homes and distributed to area businesses and retail shops and other drop off points in the Greater Rochester area.

This article is published as part of the weekly update of SWPC.

Our Mission Statement
SWPC holds that a healthy community, South Wedge, encourages a full range of housing opportunities, promotes a diverse, historically significant, commercially sustainable urban village.

Ad Deadline for News:
July 15
Call 256-170 ext. 102 or 978-963-4 for details

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Mark Davis, Ella and Elmo (Photo courtesy of Mildred Ferguson)

South Wedge Six Degrees of Separation

The Wedge editor got to wondering about how many people in the South Wedge are located within the six degrees of separation with famous people (aka puppets).

The whole six degree theory, aka “the human Web” argues that everyone on earth is approximately six steps away from any other person on earth through a “friend of a friend.” Sometime in the 1980’s, college students designed a game “Six Degrees of Kevin Bacon.” The goal was to link any actor to Bacon through no more than six connections.

A more important question: how many people can claim an “Elmo connection”? Mildred Ferguson, 311 operator at the South East Neighborhood on South Clinton Avenue, is now only two degrees away from Elmo, the red furry monster of Sesame Street fame.

She gets this connection through friend Mark Davis, a SUNY Cortland theater instructor, who shares a home with “Elle,” a 175-lb. American Mastiff. Ella recently sniffed out a “Sesame Street” connection: how many people can claim an “Elmo connection?”

In the episode, a friend of Elmo’s is afraid of dogs. He helps by introducing her to dogs of gradually bigger sizes until she meets Ella. Though terrified, she learns that while Ella may be gigantic, she’s just a friendly puppy at heart. Since “Sesame Street” usually airs episodes eight months after they’re taped, look for Ella early in winter 2013.

Now that Ferguson can check Elmo off her list, she may still get a Kevin Bacon connection. Davis also performed in the Broadway production of The Lion King. Kevin Bacon lives in New York, and no doubt, has been somewhere out there in the audience, maybe only a few feet of separation.

Local Teacher Offers Free Karate Classes

Steve Ager, a sensei or teacher, of the Issin Ryu-Karate Academy, offers free karate classes for adults and children at the South Avenue Recreation Center in the South Wedge and at Grace Methodist Church on Driving Park.

“I volunteer my time as a way to serve the community and to help in the development of youth, 6-12 years old,” said Ager, founder of Community-Youth Success Program, his non-profit organization.

He explains that the word karate translates as “empty hands,” meaning practitioners learn the art of self-defense without using weapons. However, Ager does teach the bow staff and “sai” or traditional short sword. “It’s the kind of sword the Mutant Ninja Turtles would carry,” laughed Ager. His shape is “trowel-like,” because when not used as a sword it was helped in planting rice.

Ager’s classes on South Avenue are held from 4-5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Adult classes follow at 6-7 p.m. Ager is a 28-year student of the Issin Ryu style, which translates means “one heart way.” He discovered the discipline when his sister gave him a gift of six months of lessons at the Jennings Karate Academy. He was hooked and today holds a 1st Degree black belt.

“There’s an obligation to carry on the style and teach it to other people,” said Ager. The Issin Ryu’s technique delivers straight punches instead of a traditional “twist” punch used in other karate styles.

Sensai Steve grew up in the South Wedge. He joined the Navy in the 1970s and flew a Chinook helicopter in search and rescue missions. Afterwards, Ager served in the National Guard.

“An old Kodaker,” Ager moved between Florida and Rochester before settling again in the South Wedge. The word “success” is important to his non-profit. “It’s made up of several words: special, underprivileged, challenged, citizens, educational, support and services.”

“We will also offer English [lessons] computer, GED study, U.S. Citizenship study, job search, counseling for individuals and families, a food bank, on-line doctor visits and several other services,” Ager said.

For more information, call 428-6015 or 851-2777.

Kazakhs Visit the South Wedge

South East Neighborhood Center Administrator Nancy Johns Price hosted a delegation from Kazakhstan in early April. Among their goals was to explore, “the historical evolution of non-governmental and non-profit organizations, the importance of civic involvement in American society and the culture of volunteerism in the U.S.”

“It was exciting to exchange stories and information with our visitors from Kazakhstan,” said Johns Price. “One of the items that impressed them was the fact that the neighborhood has its own newspaper [The Wedge] so that neighbors can know what is happening in their community and take pride.”

The visitors were part of the U.S. State Department’s International Visitor’s Leadership Program. Attendees included Ms. Sholpan Aitneeva, Ms. Zakira Bogalyyeva, Mr. Isakander Aliev and Mr. Mikhail Tyunin.

South Wedge Six Degrees of Separation

Sensai Steve Ager & Karate Kids

Mark Davis, Ella and Elmo (Photo courtesy of Mildred Ferguson)

Musicians Improvise on South Avenue

Make a weekend visit to Zak’s Avenue, and you might catch an impromptu music jam. When she’s not working at Zak’s, Shannon Scally plays the ukulele in her band Shannon Sny and also in Twigs and Straw, a “four-girl American roots” band. One recent Saturday, she was joined by Phil Vitallo, guitarist, CPA and non-denominational minister.

Young Artist Exhibits Senior Project

Maya Postell, 18, June graduate of the School Without Walls, snared prime wall real estate at Zak’s Avenue for her senior project. Her passion for photographing nature up close is visible in her work.

Postell plans to study photography at SUNY New Paltz in the fall. Stop by Zak’s to check out her work.

Bread for All Delivers to Your Front Door

A bright red “Bread for All” bike can now be seen circling throughout the South Wedge, a new service delivering loaves of bread to neighborhod homes. The organic whole wheat bread is packed with flax and sunflower seeds and oats. A ten-week bread subscription is available for $40.

Both men are proficient bicyclists, Bonazzi said, so South Wedge hills don’t daunt them.

Bread for Life offers a special bread the first week of each month including chive and dill and cinnamon raisin. Berry and apple pies will be added to the menu later in the season.

For more information or to place an order, call 278-7780.

Sensai Steve Ager & Karate Kids

Mark Davis, Ella and Elmo (Photo courtesy of Mildred Ferguson)

Heart of the City

MAYA POSTELL – Cannon Audio: Nancy O'Donnell

PHIL VITALLO AND SHANNON SCALLY – Cannon Audio: Nancy O’Donnell

JASON HUBBELL – Cannon Audio: Nancy O’Donnell

Wedge Comic by Justin Hubbell
SWPC Hosts Neighborhood Meeting On Gregory Street RFP

By Nancy O’Donnell

On May 10, SWPC hosted a neighborhood meeting on Gregory Street for Rochester’s Request for Proposal for 399 Gregory Street to discuss the project and solicited community input in advance of the selection process. The meeting notice was advertised via the NBN Sector 6 distribution list and SWPC’s Community Engagement and Housing & Structures distribution lists. It was also posted on the SWPC web site and on SouthWedg.org. A paper flyer was distributed door-to-door on streets adjacent to the proposed area of development.

SWPC had considered developing the property but decided against it due to financial and staff constraints. The nonprofit has met with some of the potential developers and offered to assist the group award the proposal.

During the meeting held at The Tango Cafe, residents, landlords and potential developers joined in a lively discussion of the merits of a building or a parking lot on the property.

During the evening SWPC Chair Tanya Zwalben collected the comments which were included in a letter which included a meeting summary and attendance roster later sent to Richard Rynski, the City’s secon economic development specialist in the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development.

Based on the public meeting and a discussion at SWPC Board meeting on May 12, 2011, SWPC asked the city to consider the following when evaluating the proposals the City’s receives. These concerns are listed below.

• Parking is a major concern. Cayuga and Weider St especially experience parking problems on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. This has created situations where parking on both sides of the street make access by emergency vehicles difficult. Ideally, the proposal should have adequate parking for neighbors and business customers. We recommend that a traffic and parking study be undertaken to identify traffic issues and develop a parking strategy for the community independent of this project.

• The South Wedge developed as a walkable neighborhood with access to public transportation. The new proposal should contribute to this important neighborhood characteristic.

• The developer should define a process for engaging the community in the final design of the site.

• The design should complement the pedestrian-friendly nature of the neighborhood through design concepts such as:
  • Massing that is appropriate for the street with its mix of commercial, religious and residential structures.
  • Minimal setbacks - similar to surrounding buildings.
  • Parking in rear if at all possible, or screened if on the side of a building, but not in front.

• A high level of transparancy in the 1st floor of the building’s street facing side through the use of clear windows.

• Ideally the design should be a “cookie cutter” building.

• The design should not be a “collection” of design elements from different buildings on Gregory Street. It should have a consistent architectural style throughout.

• Attractive landscaping and public space would be added benefits.

The proposal should include residential and commercial space. The South Wedge business district is strong and needs additional space to grow. People approach SWPC on a regular basis looking for space in the South Wedge to either grow or start their business.

The proposal should consider collaborating with SWPC and the Business Association of the South Wedge Area (BASWA) to assist in the recruitment of tenants for the commercial space.

The developer should have a successful track record in designing and completing urban projects.

The use of public art would also help the proposal fit into the neighborhood.

SWPC concluded the letter by urging the City not to sell the property until the construction financing is in place and a timeline for development is finalized.
Community Builders

Sanford Street Block Club Efforts Bloom
Sanford Street Block Club Coordinator Robert Lauterbach sent a recent thank you and a request for “more bulbs, please,” to Michael Warren Thomas and Jan Wyland.

BASWA Opens Shop
BASWA, Business Association of the South Wedge Area, President Chris Jones reports that “BASWA has finally found a home at 732 South Avenue.” The small space will serve as their office, meeting place and retail store that will sell South Wedge Swag, Shop Local merchandise and any other locally related items, such as local history books and maps. “The Swedge Shop” open July 1. Stop in, say hi, and buy.

Highland Park Neighborhood Yard Sale
Rain or shine, the Highland Park Neighborhood is holding a giant Yard Sale on June 11, from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.highlandparkrochester.org.

Church Holds 15th Annual Tag Sale June 24-25
The Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit, 835 South Ave, will hold their 15th annual Tag Sale, Fri.-Sat., June 24th & 25th.

HFPA’s Bells & Whistles Pay Off
The Highland Park Neighborhood is holding a “Neighborhood Spirit Contest,” said Laura McSpadden, of the HFPA. Each rider is raising $100 for the Gay Alliance. To make donations, visit www.gayaliance.org/ride-for-pride.html.

Second Annual Ride for Pride Set for June 18
Forty bicyclists will bike the Erie Canal Trail from West Henrietta to Palmyra to raise funds for the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley.

Heartbeats for Health June/July Calendar
Heartbeats for Life, a wellness support group for cardiovascular patients, their families, friends and those interested in prevention, meets Monday, June 13, 2011 – 6:30 - 8:45 p.m. Monroe County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Auditorium, 249 Highland Avenue, Rochester, NY (across from Highland Park). Bring a low fat, vegetarian dish to pass (or some cut fruit), your own place setting and beverage for a 6:30 pm potluck. 7:30 p.m. presentation: “Turned My Life Around!” by Michael Rudnick.

Bike Lane Update
Erik Frisch, transportation specialist in the City’s Architecture & Engineering Bureau, announced that the striped bike lanes to South Avenue were delayed by the rainy weather but are on their way. The lanes will go “roughly between Byron Street and Caroline Street” said Frisch.

The Susan B. Anthony Neighborhood (Canal Street at W. Main St. to Madison St.), won a second place award of $750 for a bulb donation last fall. Golden daffodils now brighten the corner to Michael Warren Thomas and Jan Wyland.

Daffodils blossom on Sanford & South (Photo by Robert Lauterbach)

Sanford Street Block Club Efforts Bloom
Sanford Street Block Club Coordinator Robert Lauterbach sent a recent thank you and a request for “more bulbs, please,” to Michael Warren Thomas and the City of Rochester for a bulb donation last fall. Golden daffodils now brighten the corner to Michael Warren Thomas and Jan Wyland.

BASWA Opens Shop
BASWA, Business Association of the South Wedge Area, President Chris Jones reports that “BASWA has finally found a home at 732 South Avenue.” The small space will serve as

SWFM Opening Day continued from page 1
freshly made pizza from the market’s own neighbor, Napa Wood Fired Pizzeria. Napa will grill pizzas right on site, using fresh ingredients from the market’s farmers.

The Wedge Veg Passport program returns to the market this year, offering kids the chance to learn the pleasures of eating fresh fruits and vegetables through fun activities and free food samples. There will also be live music and community groups each week. On June 9, learn all about the South Wedge Victory Garden. We’re also delighted to host a food drive at the market each month to support the Wedge’s own Calvary St. Andrews Emergence Food Cupboard. Volunteers will be at the market on the third Thursday of each month to collect donations to support their good work.

The South Wedge Farmers Market, sponsored by the South Wedge Planning Committee, is held every Thursday from June 2 through October 20. This year the market is open from 4 to 7 p.m. for the entire season. As always, the market is located under the beautiful big trees behind Boulder Coffee at 100 Alexander St. (at the corner of S. Clinton Ave.). For more information, please sign up for e-mail newsletters at swfarmermarket.org. You can also “like” us on Facebook for updates on market events and programs.

$15-35 per treatment sliding scale You decide what you can afford. No questions asked.
Please visit us at: 728 South Ave Rochester, NY 585.287.3183 www.rochestercommunityacupuncture.com

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Creative Wellness Coalition Offers Help for Hoarders

By Laurie Jenkins

Many of us grew up knowing the Wedge — the north-central relative whose collecting was usually explained away as an eccentricity. Over the years, depictions of the Great Depression or some other hardship may have convinced us that our neighbors’ possessions that bring us comfort or some other hardship.

For many years, treatment for the cluttering and hoarding behaviors has been nearly non-existent here in Rochester. Neighbors are the ones who en- dure the consequences of these behaviors. Many of us with hoarding have been found: others are in denial. Many of us like to keep possessions, and even if the items are worth- less, or hazardous, we can use crisis hotlines and peer resources, using a non-judgmental approach to treatment for people with hoarding.

Acquire funding to increase access to treatment for people with hoarding. This past December and early January, Carol (not her real name) came to our attention. In June 2010 a large tree branch fell on electrical wire and pulled the riser off Carol’s house leaving her without any light. The repairs had gone by when Code En- forcement Officer Fred Ross contacted Carol in Rochester and Karen Macarthur, who works in Code Enforce- ment for the Town of Henrietta, made several calls to agencies on Carol’s behalf and coordi- nated a team to help. A further complicating situation. Carol works full time and was living in her house until the Town de- clared her home uninhabitable until repairs were made. A few days before Christmas, the team gave Carol group the Over 4 feet of water filled Carol’s basement, so the town in the basement hung a pump from the store windows and the town pumps. TopS Supermarket paid for the installation of a new riser on her house and the town paid electric. Bill Bix, owner of All Dry Inc, loaned two HEPA air cleaners out of the basement and the first floor. Vice President of the Kiwanis Club Jim Brunett and his wife picked up Carol around noon on Christmas Day and took her over to Jim’s daughter house for dinner. His daughters even wrapped some gifts for her, so she wouldn’t feel left out. Carol stayed at the Brunett house, Christmas night, and the next afternoon they dropped her off at her friend’s house where she stayed for one night. Next, the Creative Wellness Coalition of the Men- tal Health Association paid for Carol to stay at Extended Stay Hotel on Commons Way in Henrietta for 30 days. When I got Carol out of her house, a contractor was called and his crew stripped the entire house to the frame, including all walls and ceiling tiles and then put fresh coats of paint on the walls. All of the damage to Carol’s possessions may cover her floors, clothes, chairs, table, even the stove, and she had to wade through knee-deep piles of debris just to get to the bathroom. Clutter becomes a fire hazard when the home cannot be used for its intended purpose (ex., the stove can’t be used until the clutter is gone), or possessions pose a health or safety hazard and jeopardize tenancy.

Compulsive cluttering and hoarding is far more common than once believed and is most often the result of long-un treat- ed mental illness. Hoarding and cluttering behaviors take a toll on not just the people who hoard, but their families, friends, landlords, neighbors, community agencies, and county officials/staff, employers as well as the public and private health and safety departments that are involved. Often, recalcitrant hoarders spend years compulsively gathering their home’s so full that sinks, stoves, and toilets become unusable, with paths through piles of newspapers, junk mail and fast food containers. It’s usu- ally not until rodents take up residence in their home that they realize they may require help with hoarding.

The Creative Wellness Co- alition supports group programs for people who have clutter or hoarding issues and their families.

In 2010, the Creative Wellness Coalition completed an Architectural Survey of the South Wedge, they passed the survey results to home own- ers on Gregory Street. I don’t recall other neighbors having much to say about them, but I do remember feeling upset that my house was described as a “vandial concentration of low sig- nificance.” Move ahead a decade or so when a neighbor told me that someone had bought her years ago that her house was the first one in the area. She didn’t know anything more than that.

Jump ahead to 2011 when I started on a quest to find out something about the boundaries of the origi- nal Munger Tract in the South Wedge— and while looking for something else, decided to read through the Landmark binder for Gregory Street.

I called and told my old neighbor’s property was listed on the tax assessment for 1826, in the Munger Tract. The sur- vey identified 131 Gregory the first commercial building in the area, sometime after 1846.

Next, I read the Landmark’s “History of the South Wedge” and found out Lyman Munger had settled on the east bank with his five children in 1817, when that land would have been in Brighton Township. Al- exander and Jefferson St., now Hamilton Street, were laid out in the 1830s. A short time after, I was talking with South Wedge resi- dents Doug Root and Cheryl Stevens about that bit of info, and Root mentioned having found the house at 81 Averill, built in 1830, and mentioned its hand-pumped beams and verti- cally slatted windows.

In studying the southeast quadrant of the plat map of 1851 between Mount Hope and South Avenue, I found there were about a dozen houses on Comfort Street; 20 on Alexander Street; 25 on Jefferson (Hamilton Street); only eight on Averill; 14 on Hickory; and 25 on Gregory.

For this article, I also read through the Historical Survey and found out what the Landmark’s categories meant. Properties coded red for “highest importance” were: 48 and 80 Alexander; 116 Hamilton; 68 Averill, 53; 35 Averill; 131 and 233 Gregory; and 540 South Av- enue. Green included 128 Aver- ill from circa 1840. Yellow coded buildings included vernacular cottages which were considered just as important as green as a part of the whole group.

It reads: “...the history of the neighborhood as a whole is more important than the sum of its parts. The history of our country is not only the story of our presidents and generals, but also the story of our working men and women whose homes in the South Wedge bear testi- mony to their lives in building Rochester’s industry and com- merce.”

All the 1875 Hopkins City Atlas shows for Ward 12 is the outline of the Lyman Munger estate between Mount Hope and the Feedler Canal from Hickory Street to Gregory Street. So we do turn this into a contest to find out the oldest, still-standing house in the South Wedge?

Some people have heard the exposure, “Curiosity killed the cat,” but it seems fewer know the second part, “Satisfaction brought it back.” Much as I’d like to find an early map of the Munger Tract, I’d really like too read the full set of surveys, but unfortunately they’re not avail- able at the moment.

In response to my research, The SWPC has instituted an am- nesty program for anyone who borrowed the Landmark Soci- ety’s binders from the SWPC office and forgot to return them. East side of Averill Avenue and others are missing. If you know where they may be hid- ing, please contact the Wedge Newspaper or email me at rok@rochester.rr.com, and we can ar- range an easy anonymous pick up or delivery.

By Rose O’Keeffe

History in Our Backyard

By Rose O’Keeffe

Towards the end of September, the Wedge completed an Architectural Survey of the South Wedge, they passed the survey results to homeowners on Gregory Street. I don’t recall other neighbors having much to say about them, but I do remember feeling upset that my house was described as a “vandial concentration of low significance.” Move ahead a decade or so when a neighbor told me that someone had bought her years ago that her house was the first one in the area. She didn’t know anything more than that.

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By Jennifer Jones

School #12 Tackles Childhood Obesity Epidemic

Did you know that childhood obesity is a growing concern in our nation? According to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 32% of American children and adolescents are overweight or obese. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the childhood obesity rate over the past 3 decades has more than doubled for pre-kinder-garten 2- to 5-year-olds and 12- to 19-year-olds, and it has more than tripled for children in ages 6 to 11. Obesity is of particular concern for minority populations: 40% of African-American children, 23% of Mexican girls ages 12 to 19, 18.5% of African-American boys, and 22% of American-Mexico boys are overweight or obese (Journal of the American Medical Association, 2008). The same disturbing statistics greatly affects Rochester. Nearly 40% of children ages 2 to 18 living in the city are overweight or obese and nearly 25% of children ages 2 to 18 living in suburbs are overweight or obese. Since obesity increases health risks for Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and asthma — risks that are becoming increasingly apparent among school-aged children — it is imperative that our community begin to recognize and address this epidemic.

Growing awareness about the childhood obesity epidemic has fueled James P. Duffy, School #12’s interest in increasing the health of our students, families, and staff. We are taking steps to improve our school culture so that this crucial aspect of education becomes an integral part of our curriculum and our lifestyle.

In January 2010, School #12 received a three-year grant of $275,000 from the Port-au-Prince Capots -一顿饭 in Haiti to develop a Community and School Wellness Program in our city. The same month, the largest and most violent earthquake in Haiti in 200 years hit the city of Port-au-Prince. Approximately 250,000 people were left homeless and another 200,000 evacuated or displaced. The group planned another 50+ aftershocks. Today, most of the capital live in tents plagued with crime and disease. The numbers dying center in Haiti, a clean water program along with introducing earthen homes that with-stand earthquakes and can built for as little as $3,000. The groups held a fund raiser on March 20 at Water Street Music Hall that included appearances by Dr. Ken McCor-nichie, University of Roches-ter Professor of Pediatrics and director of Health-e-Access Telemedicine in Rochester, singer, rapper, a rhythm and blues band, choirs, teachers and politi-cians.

The group plans another benefit concert on Saturday, June 4, at 2 p.m. at the David F. Gant Community Center, 700 North Street. Talented artists are needed to perform. For more information, call 820-4140 or email gonyouforjesus@aol.com.

By Nancy O’Donnell

SW Resident Rallies Behind Haiti

Rev. Marsha L. Allen and Michael Shannon Wilson (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)

Rev. Marsha L. Allen, project manager of the Haiti 10-Year Commission and Haiti: A Labor of Love and Green Pathways Out of Disaster and Poverty needs all the help and hands she can use in her mission to help Haiti! The 7.0 M earthquake close to its capital Port-au-Prince on January 12, 2010. Joining in her mission as a project manager in training is South Wedge resident Michael Shannon Wilson, whose business card reads “musician, humanitarian, other.”

The first major earthquake, the population suffered some 50+ aftershocks. Today, mostly in the capital live in tents plagued with crime and disease. The numbers dying from cholera continues to grow. Allen and Shannon are working with others to build a 6,000 square foot tele-medicine facility in Haiti, a clean water program along with introducing earthen homes that withstand earthquakes and can built for as little as $3,000. The groups held a fund raiser on March 20 at Water Street Music Hall that included appearances by Dr. Ken McCor-nichie, University of Roches-ter Professor of Pediatrics and director of Health-e-Access Telemedicine in Rochester, singer, rappers, a rhythm and blues band, choirs, teachers and politi-cians.

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We want all that is best for our children, and as a community it is our job to ensure their future health and well-being. We will have many opportunities this year for community and family health-related events, establishing a Health Advisory Committee to evaluate and implement school’s health policies, and coordinating community events to increase awareness of childhood obesity and encourage healthy behavior changes.

Last October’s Race Across America event, a successful initiative that the South Wedge Planning Committee and the South Wedge Farmer’s Market helped sponsored, spurred students to walk a total of 6,772 miles in a nine months our teachers have increased their students’ physical activity levels from the baseline (May 25 minutes per class per day (June 2010) to an average of 60 minutes per class per day (March 2011). Considering the many standards these teachers must meet, this increase shows the immense effort they have put forth in order to ensure that their students have opportunities throughout the day to re-activate their brains and their bodies!

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Neighbors packed The Hamilton’s Community Room on Mt. Hope Avenue recently to get a first look at proposed Erie Harbor’s Public Enhancement project plans from Bayer Landscape Architecture, PLLC, who was awarded the project by the City of Rochester. During the April 5 meeting, Principal landscape architect Mark H. Bayer and Assistant Landscape Architect and Project Manager Zakery Steele discussed the site analysis done, and the proposed design and construction.

Designs include three waterfront routes adjacent to the new Erie Harbor housing development, along with the design development of Genesee Gateway Park and along the waterfront trail surrounding the Erie Harbor improvements.

“We looked at what the South Wedge had,” said Steele referencing land maps from 1875-1972. “Workman’s cottages, amazing Victorian architecture, a buzzing South Avenue, diversity, young people, a creative class, institutions and organizations, grassroots initiatives such as community gardens, downtown, the University of Rochester and the Genesee River.”

Bayer’s plan is to “resurrect the river front, celebrate the views and promote its industrial past,” Steele said noting the area was once one of the historic Erie Canal’s important shipping corridors.

Currently, three different concepts are under consideration. The first would include a plaza that has “a passive homestead” feel according to Steele. The second concept is more “geology-based” featuring eroded stone on the river’s edge. The last of three concepts gets its inspiration from Mt. Hope area cemetery with its “land formations and natural grasses.”

Bayer Landscape Architecture, PLLC, has worked with the City on projects such as the Carter and Humboldt Recreation Centers.

In 2010, the architectural firm received an Honor Award of Excellence in Research, Historic Preservation & Communication from the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for its 2009 Rochester Historic Parks Survey.

Community feedback is invited while the public planning process continues throughout the summer. The final design is expected to be chosen by the fall with an anticipated groundbreaking in 2012. State funding is already available for this project.

Visit swpc.org for updates and information.

Jackie Vazquez joined the U.S. Navy in May and is currently in boot camp in Illinois. We thank her for her service to the Wedge and the U.S.
A sunny May 21 brought out South Wedge neighbors and friends from city and suburbs to volunteer for Clean Sweep.

SWPC Board member David Halter led a group that cleaned South Avenue from Alexander to Byron Streets. Brian Stiehler of Alexander Street led a group of about 25 people that weeded, trimmed and mulched Nathaniel Square Park. South Wedge Victory Garden Managers Jim Papapanou and Heather Penrose led another team of 30 who moved compost and wood chips to the Victory Garden. The group also planted the South Wedge Victory Garden’s first banana tree!

I worked with two teams during the day. One cleaned South Avenue from Alexander to Hickory Streets. Another group of teachers from Avon with South Wedge resident Mike VanMeenen planted flowers at SWPC Offices at 224 Mt. Hope Avenue.

Thanks to all who participated in making the South Wedge a cleaner, more beautiful place to live, shop and play!
BASWA Plays Key Role in South Wedge History

By Rose O’Keefe, BASWA Secretary

BASWA’s (The Business Association of the South Wedge Area) new website outlines its early history when business owners began working to enhance the commercial development around Mount Hope and South Avenue. However, the need to revitalize the area goes back more than 20 years. Between 1981 and 2003 many strong players have come and gone in the ongoing revitalization of the once down-trod- den blocks that is today’s South Wedge’s business corridor.

A core group of business owners formed the South Avenue Business Association, which was incorporated in 2003. Since then, BASWA has used annual membership dues in combination with various grants to enhance South Wedge commercial strips. Its projects have been many. The Parking Meter Toter Bicycle Racks seen throughout the neighborhood, the Traffic-Box strips. Its projects have been many.

Several exciting new projects are underway by BASWA this year, with the goal of each enhancing South Wedge commercial attractiveness and build awareness about BASWA plans and undertaken by local businesses, and now the Rochester History Lecture Series, the “Bottom’s Up” Beer Tastings at local businesses, and now the Rochester Real Beer Expo scheduled for June 25 are all BASWA events, planned and undertaken by local volunteer business owners to bring more people into the area and build awareness about the South Wedge.

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South Wedge Victory Garden Grows Community

By James Papapanu

The weather warms, spring flowers bloom, trees are covered in new green foliage, and the South Wedge Victory Garden is back in action for another year! Our garden to build community, not simply as a location where the community gardens. On Saturday April 9, a spring cleaning was held. The lot was cleaned of leaves and litter, the garden beds were weeded, and fresh compost was applied to them. The Victory Garden asked its own gardeners to volunteer for the work, and the response was overwhelming. About 20 gardeners turned out to roll up their shirt sleeves and provide the labor we needed. Marta Ruderman, a Victory Gardener and Hamilton St. resident, donated a large number of her day lilies that were planted along the garden’s street that day. The event accomplished both of its objectives. It introduced nearly 20 community members to each other through teamwork and toward a common goal, and it readied the garden for the growing season. Gardeners were assigned to their plots and the Victory Garden was officially opened for the 2011 growing season on April 10.

This spring South Wedge Victory Garden began providing information to assist community members in their vegetable growing endeavors. A talk entitled, “Soil: It’s Not a Dirty Word,” was presented by the Victory Garden on April 4 at Calvary St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Parish on Ashland Ave. The lecture featured Brian Beh of Raindance Harvest Sustainable Farms and Todd Lighthouse of Lighthouse Gardens. Brian and Todd taught neighborhood gardeners about applying the organic soil building techniques they practice in their businesses to home gardens. This included composting, green manures from cover cropping and fostering the health of the soil’s living ecosystem. The event was a huge success; Brian and Todd presented to room packed with over 45 community members who learned from and got to know their area’s local growers.

The Victory Garden managers envision this as the first of a series of talks on gardening. We’re currently partnering with the Brighton Community Garden to put together the next event.

Over the winter, Rochester City Horticulturist Michael Warren Thomas provided community gardens, including our Victory Garden, with a free supply of vegetable seeds. On Saturday April 30, The Victory Garden held a seed distribution event to make this supply available to our gardeners and to the South Wedge neighborhood. Gardeners who stopped by that morning meet up, enjoyed the sunny weather and took away seeds to grow beets, lettuce, spinach, cantaloupe, watermelon and several other vegetable and herbs varieties.

The United Way Day of Caring saw several more seasonal maintenance projects completed at the Victory Garden. A fresh coat of paint was put on the white picket fence and a new coat of weather seal was put on the wooden arbor. The garden has six raised planters accessible to community members with physical challenges, and these were filled with new potting soil. Clay plot numbers, handmade and donated by SWPC’s Eileen Thomas, were fixed to the six new plots build last year. Many ferns and hostas were planted along the garden’s fences; these were donated by Carol Papapanu, mother of Victory Garden Co-Manager, Jim Papapanu.

Additionally, the vacant lot at 17 Hickory St. was cleared of a substantial amount of brush on the Day of Caring. The South Wedge Victory Garden has recently acquired a city gardening permit for this lot, and steps are being taken in direction of using this space for a second Victory Garden. Stay tuned to future issues of The Wedge for updates on this! Also, The South Wedge Victory Garden maintains an active Facebook page. Find it on Facebook at “South Wedge Victory Garden” and like it to keep up on the exciting goings on in our neighborhood’s community garden.

The Victory Garden, a community garden located on Hamilton St., supports over 35 households in the South Wedge area. Much activity has taken place recently, with focus on using
South Wedge Hat
Diva Offers Hats for All Occasions
By Tonja McNair

For 12 years, I’ve been the proud owner of Tonja’s Personal Touch Hair Salon, where we feature Headz up hats, caps and accessories. Resurrecting the art of hat wearing is my main objective. In my quest, I’ve read up on hat history and discovered that at one point people wore hats for protection from the elements, but later hats became symbols of status and authority. Soon after, hats progressed to not only become a uniform but also an art form. In fashion terms, hats are a very noticeable accessory. It’s the most noticeable fashion item anyone can wear. I do mean anyone! The world watched with great excitement the huge array of fashionable and fantastic hats worn by guests to the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

My favorite prospect is the Edwardian age, it did not matter if you were poor, rich, old, adult or child. Whatever the status or the age, a person wore a hat, which brings me to my next point. Currently Headz up Hats resides in 486 square foot space. My favorite prospect is the Edwardian age, it did not matter if you were poor, rich, old, adult or child. Whatever the status or the age, a person wore a hat, which brings me to my next point. Currently Headz up Hats resides in 486 square foot space. But also an art form. In fashion terms, hats are a very noticeable accessory. It’s the most noticeable fashion item anyone can wear. I do mean anyone! The world watched with great excitement the huge array of fashionable and fantastic hats worn by guests to the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton.

The Bloom family (l-r) Justine, Charlotte, Dana, Jeff, Nathan and Heather. (Photo by George Lorson)
Zak’s Avenue Makes Cooking Sexy

Zak’s Avenue owner Deb Zakrzewski’s new stock of “Su-san and Veronica” aprons are flying out of the store.

Su-san, who com-mutes from Rochester to NYC where business partner Ve-ro-nica still lives, stepped by the shop to model one of her “Sugar Bombs® Strapless aprons.” (The kitchen fashion-sensation ap-peared on TodayShow.com’s “13 slimming gifts for the Hol-i-day Season.”)

to open “Eve-sue. Fri. 12-6ish. Sat. 10-lish.” 720 South Avenue, 473-5570.

Secker Hopkins is the Di-rector of Viva Institute in Brazil, an organization dedicated to “enhancing the lives and minds and creative power of individu-als and organizations.” The Rochester native lives with her par-ter on an organic farm out-side Ro-sie De Janeiro.

For more information about Hopkins’ work or info about making a visit to Brazil, visit www.vivainstitute.com or stop in for a cup of coffee at Equal-Grounds and pretend you’re in Rio. 730 South Avenue, 242-7480.

Big J Unlimited Wireless Serves the South Wedge

Yehuda Shapiro has a way for cell phone users to save mon-e-ry—“non-contract phones.” Think of them as the generic brand of Verizon, T-Mobile and AT&T. “I offer major carrier out-lets and unlimited talk and text nationwide for 44.95 with pageplus,” said Shapiro. “Any-one who wants to cut their bill in half, I have something for them.”

Along with pageplus, there’s H-20 and “boostmo-bile with shrinkage,” i.e. pay six-on-time payments and the next ones will shrink $5/month, “an-droids and a host of other deals. Shapiro also carries phones, accessories, Bluetooth, cases, screen protectors and house chargers, internet modems.

“I like this area. The people are nice, and it’s quieter,” said Shapiro who recently ran a business in business on West Main Street, downtown. Shapiro moved to Roches-ter from Israel 23 years ago so his wife could be closer to her family. Today Yehuda and his wife Jessica, a city schoolteacher, have three children, ages 17, 20, and Shapira, a former soccer player in Israel, spends his weekends with his children who enjoy hockey and baseball.

“Big J Unlimited Wireless, 990 South Avenue, 325-7351.

John White takes the cake for good coffee (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)

Big J Unlimited Wireless Serves the South Wedge

Yehuda Shapiro (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)

Big J Unlimited Wireless Serves the South Wedge

Yehuda Shapiro (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)

Leigh Secker Hopkins (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)

Big J Unlimited Wireless Serves the South Wedge

Yehuda Shapiro (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)

Altar Ink Opens on South Avenue

Once employee and tattoo artist at Flesh for Fantasy, Brit-tany Sinclair is now co-owner with partner Brenna Atkins of the shop and renamed Altar Ink.

“We looked at several loca-tions, [when they were begin-ning the new business].” said Sinclair. “However, the South Wedge has always been home for us. The community is amaz-ing and has such a vibrant en-ergy, and we couldn’t think of anywhere else we would rather be. When the opportunity arose for us to open, six years later, the shop here, it was a literal dream come true for the whole crew.”

The shop relocated to 650 South Avenue (the former Slim Goodie Boutique) for a few weeks after a fire in the building reports Sinclair.

Stop in and say hello to South Avenue’s newest shop owners or call for an appoint-ment.

656 South Avenue, 271-0870.

New Café to Replace South City Diner

Owners Tam Tran & Simon Vay have closed the South City Diner at 798 South Clinton Ave-nue. White Swan Asia Caffe will reopen in the space in June.

Boulder Coffee Compa-nny Keeps On Rolling

Lydia Wilton launched his company empire in the South Wedge at 100 Alexander Street in 2005. Six years later, Boulder Coffee Company locations now number five.

Bluff Coffee Company’s newest addition includes 799 Park Avenue (the former Spot Café) and Java Joe’s by Boul-der Coffee Company at 2 State Street. These join Brooks Land-ing, 955 Genesee Street, and one at 1 Rochester Public Market

Slim Goodie Boutique

Slim Goodie Shutters South Avenue Boutique

To the dismay of custom-ers, Kia Sloan closed her fashion bouti-que on South Ave. in April. Meanwhile, Sloan is busy plan-ning for the future.

“My dream was to open a larger city and invest in my own property,” said Sloan. “I definitely plan to move to a larger city and invest in my own property.” said Sloan. “I will be going back to school to get my Masters in Educa-tion. My sons and I will also be creating children’s books using his illustrations including small eco-friendly things like giv-ing cards, magnets, post cards, totes, buttons.”

“as a South Ave. Success Christopher Henney is re-la-xing– a bit–after a very hectic tax season. Henney reports that his South Wedge book-keeping and accounting firm he owns with partner Michael Lill is up 40% from last year. The chew toys on the office floor are not for customers, however, although clients might have wanted a few glosses during tax season, but for Athena, the Christopher Group’s mascot. “Jennifer Posey from Hedo-nist Chocolates told us about the South Wedge,” said Henney. “We knew the South Wedge was a good idea.”

Throughout the year The Christopher Group offers book-keeping, accounting and busi-ness planning. “We work with a lot of small, start up businesses with financial management. [We of-fer] formal engagement servic-es: engaging the media, engag-ing your banker and engaging the marketplace.”

473 South Avenue, 325-7351

The Wedge

The Wedge June-July 2011

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Neighborhood Good
Grants Awarded

By Nancy O’Donnell

The South Wedge Victory Garden, the Sanford Street and Hickory Neighbors United to Serve (Hickory Nuts) were the happy recipients of $500 Community Foundation grants through the efforts of its energetic and committed members.

“I think these grants will be instrumental in growing the Victory Garden and Sanford Street Neighbors Association. For Hickory Nuts this will enable them to continue important work they are already doing,” said SWPC board member Angela Clark–Taylor, who applied for the Sanford Street Block Club grant with help from its members Jim Papapanu and Heather Penrose, co-managers of the South Wedge Victory Garden, said the grant will be used to work on making additional raised vegetable garden beds available. “With more garden beds, we’ll be able to give more members of the South Wedge community an opportunity to inexpensively grow their own fresh and healthy produce,” said Papapanu.

“The grant will enable [Hickory St Block Club] to create, purchase, and deliver 10 more Welcome Baskets to new residents on the street and also help fund a “Meet and Greet” for all new and past investors (non owner-occupied properties) on Hickory Street,” said Jayne Morgan, “Queen Hickory N.U.T.” who applied for the grant.

Erie Harbor Wall Raising held to celebrate Mt. Hope Ave. renewal

By Robert Boyd

Most projects have ground-breaking and ribbon cutting, but in the eclectic South Wedge, we had a wall raising to celebrate the beginning of Erie Harbor. Cheers erupted when a section of the new building was hoisted into place. Many in attendance had been involved with the planning and development of the Erie Harbor project since 2004.

Wall raising celebrating included Mayor Tom S. Richards; Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks; Regional Director NYS Division of Housing and Community Development Tom VanNortwick; City Council members Dana Miller, Adam McFadden and Elaine Spaul; Senator Joseph E. Robach, (R-56th district); Dan Buyer, former SWPC Executive Director, now Assistant Commissioner of NYS Home and Community Renewal for the Syracuse region; SWPC Executive Director Bob Boyd; Richard Crossed, Chairman & Managing Partner, Conifer Realty, LLC; and Conifer Realty VP Allen Handelman. They were also joined by Calvary St. Andrews Rev. Judy Lee Hay; President, Rochester Division M&T Bank Daniel J. Burns; Vice President, J.P. Morgan Chase Scott Schmid; and NBN leader Carlene Woodward.

After a long period of separation, the Genesee River will be reunited with the South Wedge neighborhood. This new development provides many different housing options and contributes to the continuing evolution of the neighborhood.

Mayor Tom Richards applauded the “investment” that Conifer is making in the community and the partnership with state, city and county governments.

Rally for the Roc City Skatepark

June 4, 2011
Max High Falls (60 Browns Race)

Demos by professional skateboarders and BMX bikers
Fund raising & Awareness
Rally 12 p.m.– 5 p.m.
VIP Event 6 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Learn more at www.roccitypark.org

Site of proposed Roc City Skatepark (Photo by Heather McKay)
They’re Engaged!

Thomas & Mooney

Victory Garden Update

By Heather Penrose

South Wedge Victory Garden Spring Clean Up was held on 4/9 on a beauti-
ful, sunny Saturday reports garden co-manager Heather Penrose. About 20 gardeners
volunteered to clean the entire garden of debris and weeds. New mushroom compost was
added to all 34 garden beds to prepare it for the 2011 season. Workers also painted the fence
and lined it with a row of lil-
es. Mama April Rahe brought baby Elan Braimah along for the day.

In Memoriam – Tom Locke

Tom Locke (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)

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In Memoriam – Tom Locke

Mr. Locke worked as a lab
manager at Rochester Institute of Technology. He was a dedi-
cated neighborhood volunteer, helping with SWPC’s Wedges-
tock 2010.

He is survived by close
friend Marquis Ristau of Florida and a sister in New Jersey. Ste-
vens said a memorial service is
being planned.

SEAC’s 42nd Annual Meeting

Celebrates S.E. Projects

The Wedge

June-July 2011

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Eileen Thomas and Rodric “Rick” Mooney recently an-
nounced their engagement. A long-time Wedge resident, Ei-
elleen has worked at the South Wedge Planning Committee
since 2002. Rick, Batavia native and current Buffalo resident, is
employed by AAA of Western
and current Buffalo resident, is
employed by AAA of Western
Cornhill & South
Wedge
Tool Library

Now Open to Help
With Your House &
Gardening Needs

Hours:
Tuesday 4 – 6 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Eileen and Rick are watched over by Eileen’s great-grandmother Anna Kane, whose engagement photo was taken in 1897 (Photo by Nancy O’Donnell)
Highland Branch Library
June & July Calendar

Group For Adults
Needlework group meets the first Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Bring knitting, crochet, stitching, or quilting and meet other community creatives.

Book Discussion group -- come share your thoughts and make some suggestions as to titles for future reading. We are looking at possibly changing the meeting time from Friday afternoon to Monday evening. Let us know if this would work for you.

For Children

Playboard and Card Game Days -- Friday, June 3, Friday, June 17, and Thursday, June 23, at 2:30 p.m. Mystery Mondays -- June 6, 13, and 20 at 2:30, Mondays. Join us to find out what the mystery is.


Butterfly Wind Catchers -- Wednesday, June 8 at 1:30 p.m. Make some fun summery decorations.

Bug Bingo! -- Friday, June 10 at 2:30 p.m.

Flag Day -- Tuesday, June 14 at 1:30 p.m. Celebrate Flag Day with us by making your own colorful felt flag. Create your own unique flag or make one based on a real flag.

Father's Day Craftmaking -- Wednesday, June 15 at 1:30 p.m. Need something awesome to show your father how great he is on Father's Day? Make some cool crafts for dad.

Watercolor Day -- Tuesday, June 21 at 2:30 p.m. Celebrate the first day with watercolor paintings, then sprinkle them with salt to make interesting designs.

Wimpy Kid Day -- Wednesday, June 22 at 1:30 p.m. Celebrate the release of the latest Diary of a Wimpy Kid movie with games and fun activities.

Make Beaded Bracelets -- Wednesday, June 29 at 1:30 p.m.

Activities for Teens/ Tweens:

Duct Tape Wallets -- Monday, June 13 at 3:30 p.m. Need a present for your father, but short on funds? Come make a duct tape wallet at the library. Ages 10 and up.

Summer Reading Book Talk -- Monday, June 20 at 4:00 p.m. Ages 13 and up.

Stories in the Park -- Thursday, July 6 at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday mornings at 11:30 p.m. We'll meet across from the Lamberton Conservatory. Bring a blanket to sit on. Weather permitting. For ages 2-5.

Enjoy Rubber Stamping -- Wednesday, July 6 at 2:00 p.m. Try your hand at creating a picture or a card with rubber stamps. Ages 5-10. "Please register.

MAGNA Fest -- Monday, July 11 at 2:00 p.m. For teens and tweens. Call for details. "Please register.

Paint a pet rock! -- Wednesday, July 13 at 2:00 p.m. Ages 5-10. "Please register.

Cartooning -- Thursday, July 14. Learn how to draw cartoons with a professional. For older kids and teens. Call for details. "Please register.

Minute to win it -- Monday, July 18 at 2:00 p.m. Based on the popular tv show. Try your skills. Ages 10-17. "Please register.


Masks -- Monday, July 25 at 2:00 p.m. Ages 6-10. "Please register.

Origami -- Wednesday, July 27 at 2:00 p.m. Asian paper folding to create a dog, a penguin and a boat. Ages 7-14. "Please register.

Games around the World -- Thursday, July 28 at 1:30 p.m. Join Jan Daitez and play some games that kids in other countries play. This will take place at Highland Park. Call for details. Ages 5-20, accompanied by adult. "Please register.

Home For Sale

95 CLAY AVENUE

• 2,130 sq. ft. home completely remodeled
• Re-finished hardwood floors throughout
• Many leaded glass pocket doors
• Spacious foyer with open staircase to the 2nd floor
• Re-finished natural woodwork with crown moldings on the 1st floor
• Large kitchen with new cabinets, counters, plumbing and flooring
• Large dining room with tray ceiling, bay window and wainscoting
• Powder room on the first floor
• Spacious living room with bay window, fireplace and built-in fireplace benches
• Spacious 8 ft x 30 ft front porch overlooking the front yard
• 4 bedrooms on the second floor
• Summer porch off the rear 2nd floor bedroom
• One completely remodeled bathroom on the second floor with new tub, vanity, shower and commode
• Freshly painted walls and ceilings with low VOC paint
• Circuit breakers with 150 amp electric panel
• Energy efficient 40-gal. gas hot water heater
• 93% high efficiency gas, forced air furnace
• New roofing with architectural shingles
• New baked aluminum gutters and downspouts
• New energy efficient light fixtures throughout
• New asphalt driveway
• Spacious rear yard with plantings

The South Wedge Needs You!

Mark your calendars for Wedgestock 2011 on Saturday, August 20. Join us for a day long festival of live music, shopping local artist wares, an entertaining kids’ area, street performers, a pet parade, tasty food, great beer and a whole lot more! Better yet, volunteer to help out on the day. All volunteers receive a Wedgestock t-shirt, a warm, fuzzy feeling, and beer coupon. This is a great way to help make our neighborhood even better. So come one, come all down to SWPC headquarters on Tuesday, July 12 at 6 p.m. and sign up! For more information www.wedgestock.org or call SWPC at 585.256.1740.