Mt. Hope Proposed Site
Swift Waters Beer Co.
by Nancy O’Donnell

Andrew Cook’s ambitious plan to open Swift Water Brewing Company, a microbrewery at 378 Mt. Hope Avenue, doesn’t just involve making "unique, interesting and amazing craft beer" but "promoting social and cultural formation and exchange through beer." By that Cook imagines the kind of convivial chats around beer found in Irish pubs or Munich beer gardens, not American bars where blasting music drowns conversations.

“I love serving beer and having amazing conversations about beer that can turn into totally unrelated and completely interesting conversations about anything,” said Cook.

Joining the project as a behind the scenes partner is Cook’s father, Bill, owner and operator of Aurora Ridge Dairy, LLC, and founding member of Cayuga Marketing, a farm cooperative in the area. Swif Waters will include a small craft brewery, a taproom where customers can see the process of production and a beer pub with "limited hours" where visitors can enjoy pints and founding member of Cayuga Marketing, a farm cooperative in the area.

Swift Water will include a small craft brewery, a taproom where customers can see the process of production and a beer pub with "limited hours" where visitors can enjoy pints and

NeighborGood
Grants by Eileen Thomas

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) has received $9,600 in NeighborGood grants from the Rochester Area Community Foundation for SWPC community engagement projects and as the fiduciary for several South Wedge block clubs. NeighborGood grants are two-year awards designed to help community-based groups in the City of Rochester involve residents and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

The South Wedge Planning Committee’s (SWPC) continues its partnership with Bed, Bath & Beyond (BB&B) in Victor, NY, through the Good360 organization, which connects nonprofits with major retailers. This partnership has helped to stock SWPC’s “Home Shop” for the past year. The shop has been a big success as SWPC clients and members browse the shelves for great items while knowing they’re helping to support SWPC’s programs and projects. Each event also features a “free box,” with odd-and-ends that shoppers can select in addition to their chosen item.

Once each month, SWPC staff picks up items from BB&B that have been discontinued, taken off display or returned. Overstock items, seasonal and

SWPC’s “Home Shop” Opens for Members Shopping Day in April

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More Inside...
- Hanker for a Heirloom Lilac?
- CHODA Homes For Sale
- Viva La Casa Restaurant
- Nathaniel Mich Meets the Mise En Plate
- Justin Hubbell’s New Wedge
- Lettuce B. Frank Indoors
- CSA’s Big Lunch June 1
- Rhythm Society Open House
- Rochester Real Beer Expo

Highland Park Lilac Festival May 10-19
Highland Park Neighbor Association Art & History Coordinator Michael Tomb’s photograph captures all the beauty that makes our annual Lilac Festival so captivating.

SWPC Considers Adding Some Wall Therapy
by Nancy O’Donnell

The South Wedge will soon be splashed with color as Dr. Ian Wilson brings WALL THERAPY to area buildings near you. The project has been described as a “community level intervention using mural art as a vehicle to address our collective need for inspiration.”

The South Wedge Planning Committee’s brick wall that abuts Hamilton Street is a tempting canvas to the radiologist who recently met with the SWPC Community Engagement Committee to discuss the project. “As your organization and BASWA (Business Association of the South Wedge Area) are among the most important stakeholders in the South Wedge, we look forward to working with you both to reimagine the Image City.”

“The artist that I have in mind [to paint the SWPC southern wall] goes by the name of continued on pg. 12

"Color creates energy. Energy creates inspiration. Inspiration creates change."

South African street artist

Get Your Wedge at Home!
Order form on page 2.

Roc City Urban Skate Park
story on page 8

Roc City Urban Skate Park Supporters (Photo by Heather Mjay)
The Wedge
April/May 2013

Subscribe to The Wedge!

For over 35 years, The Wedge Newspaper has chronicled the lives and times of our vibrant South Wedge neighborhood—its people, businesses and events. If you enjoy reading the Wedge, please consider subscribing by sending a check or money order. Or consider making a donation in the name of someone who helped the South Wedge become what it is today.

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City________________________________State______Zip_________________

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Please mail this form along with your donation to:
224 Mount Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620.

Ways to Help Your Community

Love your neighborhood? Love your library?
Make it your cause!
Highland Branch Library is recruiting people for a Friends Group. We meet once a month at a local cafe or restaurant for about an hour to brainstorm ways that the library can be an integral part of our community. For more information, call 428-8206 or just stop by.

More Library News!
A guest lecturer will give an overview of the history of the Fascinating Mt. Hope Cemetery on Wednesday, April 10, 7 p.m. at the library.

Story Time for Kids
Story times for 3-5 year olds
Thurs. mornings. Call to register.

Scoop on Dog Poop
In spring melting snow can reveal huge unsightly mounds of doggie doo. Un- caring pet owners add to the mess by not cleaning up after their dogs while walking or letting their fenced yards fill with dog waste. Here’s the facts from City of Rochester’s pamphlet: “Your Dog. Your Neighbor- hood. Your Responsibility.”

• One gram of dog waste contains 23 million fecal col- liform bacteria. Dog waste can spread giardia and salmonella as well.
• Most dogs food today are composed of beef, chicken and/or pork products. This creates a high acidic waste product that is bad for grass

Interested in organizing a South Wedge House Tour? Help in the planning or open your home?
Please call 978-9658 or e-mail mtnancy@frontiernet.net.

South Wedge Victory Garden Celebrates 5th Anniversary

Happy 5th Anniversary to the South Wedge Victory Gar- den at 122 Hamilton Street! We are celebrating by building a second garden on 162 Cypress Street. Construction for this gar- den is slated to begin on April 13, 2013. A major portion of the con- struction will be done by the Tay House Eagle Scouts (Troop 419), led by SWPC Board Mem- ber Jason Curtis and the SWPC Victory Garden Committee. This will allow South Wedge neighbors access to two dozen or more 4’ x 8’ raised beds to grow healthy food, not to men- tion this makes another cool space to meet and connect with one another.

Please visit www.swpc.org for dates and times if you would like to attend a Victory Garden Committee meeting. Like us on Facebook, “South Wedge Vic- tory Garden”. Happy gardening!

The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc.
April/May 2013 Calendar
Meetings are held at 224 Mt. Hope Ave. The community is invited to attend all meetings.

SWPC Board Meeting
McCallagh@idg.com
Tues., 4/16, 5:21 p.m.

Community Engagement (Neighbors & Block Clubs)
amenow@swpc.org
Wed., 4/17 & 5/15, 6:30 p.m.

Finance
jason.curtis@takedonjones.com
Tcscharbat@hotmail.com
Tues., 4/9 & 5/14, 12:30 p.m.

Housing & Structures
tomcliver@gmail.com
Wed., 4/15 & 5/13, 6:30 p.m.
E-mail to confirm.

SW Victory Garden
jame.papapanu@gmail.com
gahonenow@hotmail.com
E-mail for dates and times.

Attention Neighbors! Join SWPC for a Community Discussion on Crime & Crime Prevention in the South Wedge.
Call SWPC at 256.1740, ext. 103 or e-mail jpage@swpc.org.

Annual “Pick Up the Parks” - April 13
The Monroe County Parks is holding its 4th annual “Pick Up the Parks” on Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. - noon. Please consider pitching in and help us clean up the parks from the winter accumulation of trash and debris, reduce litter entering our waterways and help get the parks looking great for spring and summer. After- wards enjoy a Thank You Pic-

By Heather Penrose and James Papapanu

The Wedge Newspaper, a not-for-profit newspaper, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee, a community development organization serving the South Wedge neighborhood of Rochester, New York. The Wedge Newspaper is distributed to area businesses, retail shops and other drop off points in the greater Rochester area.

Our Mission Statement
SWPC builds community in the South Wedge, encourages a full range of housing opportunities and promotes a diverse, historically significant, commercially sustainable neighborhood center.

Wedge Planning Committee

Officers
Monica McCallagh, Chair
Donna Rotkoll Lockhart, Vice Chair
Anthony Scalficcia, Treasurer
Jason Curtis, Co-Treasurer
James Papapanu, Secretary

Board Members
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Monica McCallagh, Chair
Felicia “Joe” Clark, Stakeholder
Mark Gulbrandson, Jr., Neighbor
Mitch Girchuk, Neighbor
David Holm, Rotarian
Sarah Johnstone, Neighbor
Eugene Keizer, Neighbor
Heather Penrose, Neighbor

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Assistant Director Elizabeth Thomas
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Consultants
Norm Kuren, SBDC SUNY Geneseo
Katie Caccamise, Bookkeeper

Wedge Newspaper
Nancy O’Donnell
Executive Editor & Layout
AIDN Printing, Monroe Newspapers

Writers
CPO Brian Bannerman, Kathleen Green, Rosemary Aueylik, David Kramer, Nathaniel Mihl, Nancy O’Donnell, Rose O’Kearfi, Heather Penrose, Dr. Alex Cruz Patan, Mary Reppas, Elizabeth Thomson, CPO Michelle Vege

Photography
Kathleen O’Donnell, Nancy O’Donnell, Heather McKay, Nathaniel Mihl, Heather Penrose, Doug Root, Michael Tomb

Information services
To reach The Wedge, call (585) 216-1740, ext. 100 or (585) 779-1748.
Fax (585) 248-1497
E-mail: staff@swpc.org or news@swpc.org

South Wedge Planning Committee
224 Mt. Hope Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620
(585) 216-1740

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Happy gardening!

Visit “Pick Up the Parks” on Facebook. Encourage all your friends to “like” the page. The event will also be published on Twitter #SWPCparks.

Ad Deadline for Next Issue
May 13
Call 256-1740, ext. 105 or 978-9638 for rates.
South Wedge Resident Promotes Citizen U

South Wedge resident Priscilla Alabi recently announced a new year for Citizen U, an after school civic engagement, job readiness and college readiness program for youth ages 14 to 18. Alabi, an AmeriCorps Vista, RYF Fellow, serves as the Southeast Area Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) Youth Engagement Coordinator.

“I was born in Nigeria, West Africa where I lived until the age of 11,” said Alabi. “My mother and I got the opportunity to immigrate to the U.S., and we moved to Brooklyn, where my mother still lives.”

Alabi moved to Rochester at 18 to attend the University of Rochester where she got a degree in political science with minors in international relations and English theatre.

“While at U of R, I explored the city and grew to love it, which is why I decided to stick around and at least one more year to serve the City as a Rochester Youth Year Fellow through AmeriCorps Vista,” Alabi said. “I am looking forward to another year of bigger and better.”

Citizen U targets youth who are at risk. The Youth Focus Investment Strategy (FIS) areas of the Southwest’s Jefferson Avenue area and the Southeast’s Beechwood area, but the program is based in the NSC on South Clinton Avenue.

“During the school year, Citizen U teen leaders make a difference in their communities through planning and implementing community improvement projects,” said Alabi. “In doing so, they gain skills that help them make positive changes in their own lives.”

Over the summer months, the teens participate in community uplifts, complete service learning projects and work in sites that explore their career interests. To learn more, call 428-6518.

South Wedge Community\n
SWPC Holds Community-wide Event

SWPC’s Community Engagement Committee launched its first ever South Wedge community-wide event on Wednesday, April 17 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. at Calvary St. Andrews Church on Avernell Avenue and Ashland Street. These quarterly events feature topics that create an opportunity to meet your neighbors, while learning more about the South Wedge. The first event focuses on crime prevention initiatives and tactics.

For more information, email SWPC (information@swpc.org) or give us a call at 526-1740.

City of Rochester SE Clean Sweep on May 4

Each year more than 25,000 volunteers show their pride in Rochester by working alongside City crews to clean and beautify just about every street in the city. In addition to removing litter and debris, volunteers plant flowers, prune trees and perform other neighborhood beautification projects. This year the Southeast Clean Sweep will meet on May 4 at Cobbs Hill Park at Culver and Nor ris Roads. Teams will go out throughout the Southeast and return to the park for lunch. For more information, call the Southeast Neighborhood Center at 428-7640.

Let’s DePave!

The City of Rochester has posted a website to teach you all you need to know about how to de-pave, “The Guide to Freeing Your Soil: Parking Lots to Paradise Production.”

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Citizen U mentors & members (in photo below)

Neighborhood Good Grants

continued from pg. 1

In addition to a $2,000 grant to fund some of the Community Engagement Committee’s program for 2013 and 2014, a number of block clubs—Averill/ Ashland, Gregory Street, Meiro Place and Sanford Street—received $650 each to cover their specific activities over the next two years. In addition, The Hamilton Tenants Association receives $1,000.

SWPCC’s South Wedge Victory Garden was awarded $2,000 for its community garden on Meiro Street. The South Wedge Farmers Market also received $2,000. “SWPCC thanks the Foundation for funding what we could not support or underfund,” said John Page, SWPCC executive director. “SWPCC acts as an umbrella for neighborhood groups who want to strengthen the neighborhood and keep the South Wedge on its upward trend.”

The Community Foundation has invested $2,000 in the South Wedge Community Garden that assists individuals, families, businesses and organizations to establish funds that aid specific charitable interests or evolving needs in the community. Since its founding in 1972, more than 1,000 funds have been created, allowing the Foundation to address a broad range of regional needs, including civic engagement, children and family issues, the environment and more. See www.rafc.org for more information.

Financial Aid

Community Builders

by Nancy O’Donnell

Flower City Challenge & Fleet Feet Contest

On Sat., April 27, Fleet Feet hosts the Spirit Contest again where you can come dressed up and join the course of the Rochester River Challenge Duathlon & Paddle Triathlon can earn money for a neighborhood beautification project. Last year the Highland Neighborhood won $750 that was used to paint the Linden/Meigs Street road mural near the Ellwanger Barry children’s playground. Highland Park is Zone 5 ( Mile 7) from S. Goodman to Crawford to the tip top of the hill at Penfield before they turn down Doctors Rd. between approximately 8 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. For more information, check out www.flowercitychallenge.com.

Rochester Rotary Wants You and You!

The Rotary Club visited a recent NBN6 meeting and invited the community to form a new chapter of the club. Rotarians focus on international peace and understanding, services for those with disabilities, exchanging programs, community service initiatives and leadership opportunities for young people.

Contact Glenn M. Balch, Jr. glennewm@gmail.com or 330-5576 or John Best at 671-4757 e-mail: jackbest@rochester.com.

Calvary St. Andrews Partners with BASWA

Calvary St. Andrews has partnered with the Business Association of the South Wedge Area’s (BASWA) retail Swedge Shop at 732 South Avenue.

Drop off cans of soup, tuna, fish, bags of rice, toilet paper, shampoo or toothpaste and you can enter to win a monthly Swedge Shop drawing for a gift bag.

Drop off hours are Thursdays through Saturday, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m. For more information, e-mail Robert Lauterbach rblauterbach@gmail.com.

South Church Holds First Fri. Game Nights

South Presbyterian Church, 4 Henrietta Rd., holds a Game Night every first Friday of every month in Fellowship Hall. Bring a favorite board, word or game cards for good conversations and fun. Adults only. 6-8 p.m. (High School students welcome).

Swift Water Brewing Company

continued from pg. 1

R-2 (residential) to C-1, (a very restrictive commercial zone also known as the “Neighborhood Center District”) that allows for commercial uses until 11 p.m. While he’s waiting for the City meeting, Cook’s gone house to house on Hickory and Gregory Street to talk about his Swift Water Brewing Company.

“There’s a lot of support,” said Cook. “Most people are ‘where do I sign?’ Roughly 90-95% (of the people reached) are supportive. Two people were against or not sure.”

South Wedge Farmers Market

The South Wedge Farmers Market also received $2,000. For more information, call the South Wedge Farmers Market at 473-2464.

Rochester Rotary Holds Community Builders \n
Saint Boniface Church

Keeping faith in the South Wedge for 150 years!

330 Gregory Street
www.stbonifacechurch.org
585-473-4271

Weekend Masses

5:00 P.M. Saturday
9:00 A.M. Sunday
Crime Prevention Bulletin

“Apple-picking” is a Crime
by Officer Brian Bannerman & Michelle Velez

The Rochester Police Department recently announced an increase in street robberies in the City’s South East neighborhood. Many of these criminals have targeted personal electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, and iPads.

You may have heard these incidents referred to as “apple picking.” Make no mistake—these crimes are robbery, a serious felony offense. Many of these crimes involve violence or the threat of violence. The RPD would like to offer the following tips to help you avoid becoming that victim.

1) Never keep or carry excess cash or property on your person if you don’t need it. Conceal any personal electronic devices, and leave unneeded valuables at home if you are going out for any reason.

2) Consider installing theft tracking applications on your personal electronic devices. Many of these apps are available for free on the internet.

3) Always stay alert to your surroundings! Whether you are walking down the street or engaged in any outdoor activity, you must be aware of persons and situations around you. Criminals are less likely to commit a crime when they believe someone can identify them.

4) Report suspicious activity to the police immediately. If you observe something that seems like criminal activity, call 911. If you are mistaken in your assessment of the situation, no harm is done by the police looking into it. On the other hand if you are right, you just might prevent a crime or even help to apprehend a criminal.

5) Trust Your Instincts. Whether you are at work, at home or engaged in your favorite pastime, you usually know what people and actions seem out of place for the situation. If it feels “wrong” to you, it probably is. Get away from any potential danger immediately and call 911.

6) If you do become the victim of a robbery, comply with the criminal’s requests for money or property. Your belongings are not worth the risk of being injured. Don’t make any sudden moves or do anything to agitate the robber. Try to get a good description of the criminals clothing and physical features. A good witness is our best hope for making an arrest. Contact your Crime Prevention Officer for further information and a free security survey for your home or business. Call 428-7840.

The Wedge
April/May 2013

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Paislee Boutique
Like Mother Like Son

Pamela Reese Smith dazzled partygoers (and Wadge Newspaper party crashers) at the Pathstone “Have a Heart Benefit Concert” on St. Valentine’s Day in the German House.

Singing backup for the NYC born former Apollo Theater performer was son David Reese, named “employee of the month” in Esquire Magazine’s October 2012 issue and Glover Barber Shop barber.

Reece Smith’s style has been compared to Ella Fitzgerald and Dakota Staton.

Her CD, “Pamela Reese Smith—Live at the Redstone Room—was recorded during a Jazz Performance in Davenport, Iowa in 2010.

When not singing, Smith Reese works as a community organizer for PathStone Corporation, advocating for “Asset Based Community Development.”

Currently, she sings with Odyssey, a nine-piece band featuring saxophonist Lonnie Crites, based out of Buffalo, NY.

Other big plans on the horizon—Smith Reese singing with an all women big band, Ladies First.

“I’d like to do a concert outdoors at the Highland Bowl,” said Smith Reese.

Genealogy research can be very frustrating. I’d always been told my grandmother, Marion O’Malley Joyce, was born on St. Patrick’s Day in County Galway. Armed with just a name and birthplace, I set out to piece the puzzle together.

I wasn’t getting too far using Genealogy.com and Ancestry.com. It seemed that the surname Joyce in Ireland is like Smith or Jones in the USA.

Where to begin?

I entered the details I had on one of the genealogical blogs and checked it frequently. After months, I finally got a suggestion from a reader to contact someone in Connecticut who might just have the same names in her family tree. I called Ellen Fox in Connecticut and said I may have some relatives in her family tree. I called Ellen Fox in Connecticut and said we may have some relatives in her family tree. I called Ellen Fox in Connecticut and said we may have some relatives in her family tree. I called Ellen Fox in Connecticut and said we may have some relatives in her family tree.

Ellen’s husband was shocked. When she answered the door, we both almost fell over – we looked so much alike it was uncanny. Even Ellen’s husband was shocked.

Walking into her living room, I realized that Ellen had the exact same Bokara carpet that I had in my living room. Obviously there was some genetic component to our tastes as well!

Over lunch, Ellen provided me with information that allowed me to ‘grow the tree’ and get in touch with my mother’s first cousins in Clifden, Co. Galway. After several phone calls and new information about my grandmother, grand aunts and uncles, the relatives over there asked when I could come to meet them. Loving any excuse to travel, I arranged to go within two weeks. It was one of the most emotional adventures of my life. I met so many wonderful people.

When Irish Eyes Keep Smiling

By Kathleen Green

For many years, I heard stories about my Irish grandmother coming over to the United States as a young girl of 14 in search of a better life. And so, as a child, I too envisioned exotic adventures on the high seas voyage from the Emerald Isle to the new promised land of America.

When my own mother died at the age of 66, I realized that I had never really gotten any details of the family lineage. I only knew my mother was an only child. Her father, who died at age 56, had only one distin- tant sister who never had any children. So I grew up without aunts, uncles, grandparents or cousins. But, still it was a happy childhood.

I went to St. Cecilia’s Catho- lic School which was as Irish as you could get in San Francisco at that time. I always felt a sense of belonging to that tight-knit community, playing and growing up with the McHughas, the Murphys and the Horans.

It wasn’t until I retired and had time to spend researching that the real story unfolded.

Ultimately Byam believes that making connections across neighborhoods might make Rochester a stronger city and “work to decrease some of the violence in our town.”

Byam went first to the Upper Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association looking for “pillars of the neighborhood” willing to share some stories.

“Stories collected will focus on common childhood and ‘first’ themes, as well as defining moments.” She has also contacted the Rochester Public Market so that she can gain a greater variety of stories.

Next step would be to compile the stories and take it to the stage during this year’s Fringe Festival.

“Actors or volunteers will read the stories to bring anonymity to the actual teller. Only after the stories have been shared and people have a chance to think about them will...
In Memoriam - Edline Chun
May 17, 1939 - February 6, 2013
Rochester’s academic and community nonprofits were saddened to learn of the violent death of Edline Chun, 73, “a caring and compassionate” social activist and educator, during a robbery.

The Hawaiian native was a long-time resident of Rochester’s Beechwood neighborhood.

In the South Wedge, Chun served on NeighborWorks as a board member. She taught at the Rochester Institute of Technology, working for almost two decades as an adjunct professor in the school’s College of Imaging Arts and Sciences.

“The community is a shock to all who knew Edline Chun because of all the good that she did for others and the community,” said NeighborWorks CEO Kim Brumber. “She was a board member here for 29 years and also served on the staff as a community nonprofit. She was a rare individual of many people in the community. She was a caring, and giving person who positively influenced the lives of many people in the community. She was a very individual that gave 110% to everything she did. Her brutal murder is a significant loss to this community because of all that she gave of herself.”

Chun was shot to death on February 6, 2013 in what Rochester City Police believe was a targeted robbery. Her body was later discovered in Tyron Park by Monroe County maintenance workers. On March 8, two Rochester residents were arrested for the crime and charged with second-degree felony murder charges.

Brumber also praised Ms. Chun’s care for the city and city neighborhoods, and her “endless hours” given to NeighborWorks and Literacy Volunteers. She is credited as one of the founders of Sojourner House, a shelter and support for troubled women and their children.

Friends report that in total Chun was involved in 13 different community organizations and programs. Due to the multitude of her affiliations, three commemorative events were held honoring Chun in March: a community memorial service at Gallery Director Beth Bloom welcomes “Abstract Confessions,” artwork by Joe Kerwin as the featured exhibit in April at Equal-Grounds Gallery. Kerwin’s work, described as part graffiti and part painting, pushes boundaries allowing him to create a visual symphony of color and texture. “Joe Kerwin is a man obsessed with making art,” said Bloom. “He doodles on it all the time. He doodles on the ends of papers, considers the possibilities of materials and how to use them, and looks forward to the time he is free to create.”

Opening reception for “Abstract Confessions” is Friday, April 5, 7 – 9:00 p.m. at the Gallery – Equal-Grounds, 750 South Avenue.

For more information, contact, gallery@equalgrounds.com or call 561-676-1985.

Art show at Crossroads Coffee
750 South Avenue, Rochester
Friday, April 5, 7 – 9:00 p.m.

Art show at Crossroads Coffee
750 South Avenue, Rochester
Friday, April 5, 7 – 9:00 p.m.

South Wedge Neighborhood News

S.E. Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) Administrator Nancy John-Price addressed a recent Neighborhood Building Neighborhood 6 meeting about a new City of Rochester business permit process. The NSC team is contacting all business owners to establish a relationship and to ask them to sign a Good Neighbor Agreement, provide code and permit education and troubleshoot issues.

As part of the process, corner stores are being asked not to carry certain products that are known to be drug-related paraphernalia, enforce packing laws that forbid selling products in their unassembled packages (e.g., single cigarettes, sleeves of crackers, etc.) NSC can also flag potential problem businesses for more enforcement attention.

To contact Nancy John-Price at 428-740.

NYS Assembly News

Allan Richards, Assistant to State Assemblyman Harry Bronson, announced that he NYS Assembly has passed its version of the budget that rejected the Governor’s call to eliminate the Neighborhood Preservation Program and replace it with the Community Preservation Program. Under the Governor’s proposed changes it would cut the allocation to the neighborhood preservation groups by $2 million dollars. Under the Assembly’s version of the budget the programs would receive $142.4 million in funding and groups such as the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) and the South East Area Coalition (SEAC) would hold an additional $320,000.

Additionally, the Assembly has added an additional $6.4 million to the budget of Rochester as part of their AIM funding.

For only $30 your business card size ad could appear here. Not only would you be promoting what’s best about your business, you’ll be helping SWPC’s projects and programs.

For deadlines, call 978-9638.

HPNA Vice Chair Lauren Schiek invites you to join us! This has come as a shock to the community because of all that she gave of herself.”

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Friday, April 5, 7 – 9:00 p.m.

South Wedge Neighborhood News

S.E. Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) Administrator Nancy John-Price addressed a recent Neighborhood Building Neighborhood 6 meeting about a new City of Rochester business permit process. The NSC team is contacting all business owners to establish a relationship and to ask them to sign a Good Neighbor Agreement, provide code and permit education and troubleshoot issues.

As part of the process, corner stores are being asked not to carry certain products that are known to be drug-related paraphernalia, enforce packing laws that forbid selling products in their unassembled packages (e.g., single cigarettes, sleeves of crackers, etc.) NSC can also flag potential problem businesses for more enforcement attention.

To contact Nancy John-Price at 428-740.

NYS Assembly News

Allan Richards, Assistant to State Assemblyman Harry Bronson, announced that he NYS Assembly has passed its version of the budget that rejected the Governor’s call to eliminate the Neighborhood Preservation Program and replace it with the Community Preservation Program. Under the Governor’s proposed changes it would cut the allocation to the neighborhood preservation groups by $2 million dollars. Under the Assembly’s version of the budget the programs would receive $142.4 million in funding and groups such as the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) and the South East Area Coalition (SEAC) would hold an additional $320,000.

Additionally, the Assembly has added an additional $6.4 million to the budget of Rochester as part of their AIM funding.

For only $30 your business card size ad could appear here. Not only would you be promoting what’s best about your business, you’ll be helping SWPC’s projects and programs.

For deadlines, call 978-9638.

HPNA Vice Chair Lauren Schiek invites you to join us! This has come as a shock to the community because of all that she gave of herself.”

Chun was shot to death on February 6, 2013 in what Rochester City Police believe was a targeted robbery. Her body was later discovered in Tyron Park by Monroe County maintenance workers. On March 8, two Rochester residents were arrested for the crime and charged with second-degree felony murder charges.

Brumber also praised Ms. Chun’s care for the city and city neighborhoods, and her “endless hours” given to NeighborWorks and Literacy Volunteers. She is credited as one of the founders of Sojourner House, a shelter and support for troubled women and their children.

Friends report that in total Chun was involved in 13 different community organizations and programs. Due to the multitude of her affiliations, three commemorative events were held honoring Chun in March: a community memorial service at Gallery Director Beth Bloom welcomes “Abstract Confessions,” artwork by Joe Kerwin as the featured exhibit in April at Equal-Grounds Gallery. Kerwin’s work, described as part graffiti and part painting, pushes boundaries allowing him to create a visual symphony of color and texture. “Joe Kerwin is a man obsessed with making art,” said Bloom. “He doodles on it all the time. He doodles on the ends of papers, considers the possibilities of materials and how to use them, and looks forward to the time he is free to create.”

Opening reception for “Abstract Confessions” is Friday, April 5, 7 – 9:00 p.m. at the Gallery – Equal-Grounds, 750 South Avenue.

For more information, contact, gallery@equalgrounds.com or call 561-676-1985.

Art show at Crossroads Coffee
750 South Avenue, Rochester
Friday, April 5, 7 – 9:00 p.m.
La Casa Restaurant Opens on Alexander Street

By Nancy O'Donnell

Boulder Coffee Company owner Lyha Wilton recently invited the Bocanegra family, better known for “La Placita En Downtown,” a café at the Rochester Public Market to open La Casa Mexican restaurant, a delicious addition to Alexander Street.

Wilton repainted La Casa En South Wedge turquoise and clay and designed the attractively inviting interior. The restaurant is attracting a lot of buzz online (four out of five stars on yelp.com) and in the South Wedge as neighbors tell neighbors that “this is the real deal.”

The restaurant, run by Mia Bocanegra and Omar Ramos, is managed by their 18-year-old daughter Leila Bocanegra, who also studies international relations at SUNY Geneseo.

“We decided to come to the South Wedge because of the great atmosphere that it offered as well as the awesome location,” said Leila.

House specialties include enchiladas, taquitos, (de asada, chorizo, al pastor and pescado), carnitas, and fajitas, as well as nightly specials.

A grand opening is planned for Cinco de Mayo, May 5, with an outdoor bar and patio open for business. “We will hopefully have our liquor license by then if everything goes well,” said Leila. In the meantime, patrons are invited to take a stroll down to Nathaniel Square Corner Store on South Avenue to pick up a six pack before dinner.

“My mother is from Mexico,” said Leila. “My dad and I were born in Texas, but he lived most of his life in Mexico, and I spent the first five years there. One specialty mentioned in reviews is “Horchata,” a Mexican drink usually comprised of milk, cinnamon, sugar and rice. “That is all I am allowed to say [about the family recipe],” said Leila.

93 Alexander St. (parking entrance on Alexander, look for the sign on the fence). 730-5025. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m., Sat. 5 p.m. - 10 p.m., Sun 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Abundance Co-op Looks to Expansion in Southeast

Jim DeLuca, general manager of Abundance Co-op Market, is looking for a new location in the Southeast section of the city. The natural food grocery store wants to double their current size of 5,000 square feet at Marshall Street.

“Abundance is celebrating 12 years at our current location on Marshall Street. For some time, I have thought that what Abundance offers in terms of knowledge, quality and values should be more convenient to more Rochesterians,” writes DeLuca in an e-mail to the Wedge. “After working almost a year for a location on Alexander Street, we lost the space to Buckingham Properties because they decided to move their own offices there. We have recovered from the letdown and are again looking for a 10,000 square foot space with decent exposure, at least 40 parking spaces and close enough to other retailers to create a destination synergy. We continue to seek a space bounded on the west by the inner loop, by University Avenue on the north, by Culver Road on the east and by Elmwood Avenue on the South. According to a recent DeLuca

Search for Irish Roots

continued from pg. 5

...derful relatives (at least 20) who escorted me around the area. I went to the old family homestead where Marion O’Malley Joyce was born in 1866 along with her nine siblings. After being in the family over 200 years, the 1000 acre farm in Shannenboeher was sold just two years ago as it was getting to be too much work for Uncle Tommy, age 78. The old stone three-bedroom home was still standing, albeit the thatched roof was long gone. I walked the road my grandfather took to the one room schoolhouse. I stood on the bluff watching the sheep like the ones my grandmother must have tended before going off to school. I took pictures of everyone and everything, wanting to savor the experience and share it with my family in San Francisco.

The experience of literally falling into a new family of people that you feel so genetically connected to, and welcomed by, was overwhelming. When one of my mothers 2nd cousins walked into the room, she looked like a carbon copy of my mother who passed away in 1983, who I miss on a daily basis. It was too emotional for me and I broke down in tears. They were some of the happiest tears I have ever cried.

Back in Rochester and because of my positive experience I’d like to offer to help anyone with Irish roots to get started in their family history project. The Rochester Central Library has an area on the 2nd floor dedicated to public use. It may be just the right time as Ireland is having a “Come Home” Campaign in this year! To learn more, e-mail kgreen@rcicat.org.

Ellen Fox and Kathy Green
(Pho)
Use Your Head--Wear a Helmet!

By Dr. Alexie Cruz Puran,

With warm and sunny days ahead, we all look forward to spending time outdoors and being involved in recreational activities and sports. Exercising is an important part of a healthy, physically active lifestyle for children. However injuries can, and do, occur.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 2.6 million children 0-19 years old are treated in the emergency department each year for sports and recreation-related injuries. Steps can be taken to help prevent injuries from such activities. One major action that aids in reducing head injuries is the use of helmets.

Helmets are essential for the safety of any recreational activity that involves wheels. The National Safety Council recommends wearing a helmet while bicycling, in-line skating, playing baseball, skiing, rock climbing and horseback riding. Helmets are specifically designed to protect the head for each type of activity. Here are a few tips:

1) Purchase only a helmet that meets bicycle helmet safety standards of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Check the inside of the helmet for the label. Helmets manufactured or imported for use after March 1999 must comply with a mandatory CPSC safety standard.

2) Helmets are designed for protection in specific conditions and may not offer enough protection in others. Bike helmets are very protective in head-first falls at fairly high speeds and are light and well ventilated for comfort and acceptability. A multisport CPSC certified helmet, is also acceptable.

3) The essential part for impact protection is a thick layer of firm polystyrene and plastic foam that crushes on impact, absorbing the force of the blow. All helmets require a chin strap to keep them in place in a crash.

4) Both hard-shell and soft-shell helmets meet CPSC standards; the main difference is style and comfort. The soft-shell helmets while lighter may be less durable.

5) A helmet should be worn squarely on top of the head, covering the top of the forehead. The chin strap should be adjusted to fit snugly.

6) An infant’s or child’s helmet should fit for several years. Most models have removable fitting pads that can be replaced with thinner ones as the child’s head grows.

7) In general, a helmet that has been through a serious fall or crash should be retired with gratitude. It has served its purpose and may not provide adequate protection in another crash.

8) Be consistent. If you allow your children to ride occasionally without their helmets, they won’t believe that helmet use really is important. Children learn best by observing you. Whenever you ride your bike, put on your helmet.

9) Remember, children are our future and we must protect them.

The Scoop on the Lilac Festival

By Maya Reagan, Cub Reporter

Highland Park is having their annual ten day Lilac Festival May 10–19. So I’m going to give you a little information about this festival. First, games, because this is the kid’s corner. Well, the games last year (and I hope they are coming back) were ping pong for fish (where you have to throw a ping pong ball into a little cup). For that you get in the big one, you win a big fish or two small ones.) Then you throw darts at balloons (watch out, they’re sharp!). Then, duck pinning. Next, amusement, I enjoyed teacups, a bouncy house, a play house the other one is a surprise.

Now food. The Lilac Festival has tons of different cultural food. A good one from the South Wedge is The Beale. There is food everywhere. If you like popcorn go this way, hot dogs, go that way. Last but not least, vendors have dresses, jewelry, artwork, pottery and glass products at the Arts & Craft tents down near South Avenue.

Most important, don’t miss the parade the first Saturday, May 11 at 10:30 a.m. The parade starts at the corner of Elmwood Ave & South Ave. Another great event is the Rochester Lilac Festival 10K and Family Run at 8:00am on Sunday, May 12.

To get fast facts, check their website at http://www.rochesterfestivals.com/festivals-events/lilac-festival. See you at the Lilac Festival!

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Momentum Builds for Roc City Urban Skate Park

By Nancy O’Donnell

The nonprofit Friends of the Roc City Skate Park’s determination to create a “well-lit, safe, outdoor community center for the whole family open to all ages and level of skating and riding abilities...and access will be totally free” continues to build.

The skate park was envisioned by now-president of the Friends group, Jim Maddison, a father of four children who were active in “progression-oriented sports” like skateboarding, roller blading, BMX and scooters, who “spent a small fortune to take them to private parks,” when he realized many U.S. cities have free, public skateparks.

Maddison teamed up with Kruko Skateboards and interested BMX riders. By 2010, the Rochester’s City Council voted to give $50,000 for the Skatepark (funding for the skatepark in the City’s Capital Improvement Program Budget was re-launched to the public on May 3, 2011). The budgeted amount was part of the $2 million that the Board of the Friends of the Roc City Park requested.

The group’s website outlines what the skate park could mean to the City and how it plans to make it a moneymaking venue.

The proposed site for the skate park is a 75,000 square foot area below the Fredrick Douglass-Susan B. Anthony Bridge. Once completed, the City of Rochester would own the park, hold the liability insurance and help to maintain it. The Friends group also plans to create a public-private partnership that would help maintain the park.

The group argues that skateboarding is something that is exciting, even dangerous to children who use public roads and jerry-rigged structures. A safe Skatepark, with its “skateable art” would benefit not only current skateboarders but encourage other children to give it a try and reap health benefits in a time of increasing obesity rates for children.

Currently, the project is scheduled for construction in 2015, however, supporters hope to move the timeline up to 2013.

Their website emphasizes two other primary objectives: that the proposed $2MM remains in the City of Rochester’s Capital Improvement Program budget and secure additional funding for the skatepark from private donors, including a leadership gift and the naming rights level and naming rights to features within the park.

The public is invited to attend even if they weren’t at the first meeting. The community is invited to support a great project and help be a part of the final design concept. To learn more or volunteer to help Roc City Urban Skate Park planners, visit www.roccitypark.org.

The Wedge April/May 2013

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Roc City Skate Park

Public Input Meeting #2

April 11 6-8 p.m.

School #12 Atrium 999 South Avenue Rochester, NY

Come and participate in the design of the new, custom concrete skate park. Skate Park designers Kanten Russel and Mike McIntyre will be at the meeting and welcome your input for the design.
Couple Turns Antique Collecting into a Business
By Nancy O’Donnell

When Richard Mandrino realized that his collection of artwork and antiques, acquired through estate sales and auctions, would outgrow his home, South Clinton Trading Company was born. Mandrino, founder and operator of Deckscapes of Rochester, joined with Joanne “Jo” Denny, a full-time nursing student at MCC, to share his passion for collectibles.

“She called me a hoarder. I don’t collect anything; I collect everything,” said Mandrino.

He needed a place to display all his stuff,” laughed Denny.

Denny’s “encouragement,” Mandrino started looking for the right location.

First he looked at Park, South and Monroe Avenues before decided on Sibulvig, “I like the neighborhood.” He renovated and repainted the space that he believes was once a sausage factory.

South Clinton Trading Company has a changing arrangement for collectibles. If you are able to sell and trade their antique or collectible, the company will hold two seatings on weekends.

Zeppe Bistro’s White/Red six course wine tasting menu opens at 7 p.m. on April 16. Price is $85 per person including tax and gratuity. Reservations required. Here’s a peak:

First Course: Beaver tail oyster on the half shell, champagne mignonette paired with Cannida Frascati.
Second Course: Pan seared diver scallop, cauliflower two ways, curry, ginger and lime beurre blanc, paired with 900 grapes Sauvignon Blanc.
Fourth Course: Grilled Quail, Crispy Pancaetta, roasted pepper puree, Bolton pea shoots, Bing Cherry Port Reduction with Lychee by Etude Pinot Noir.
Fifth Course: Braised Beef Cheek, Potato a Sweet Potato Hash, Fried Goat Cheese, Cabernet Reduction with Salviano Turlo wine.
Sixth Course: Polenta cake, ice cream, figs and blood oranges, Chantilly Cream Wine: Pacific Rim Vin de Glaciere. Visit zeppabistro@yahoo.com or call 563-6241.

New York Times Recommends South Wedge Visit
A recent New York Times article entitled “Reuter’s Travel Postcard: 48 Hours in Rochester, New York” named all the usual suspects to visit in Rochester: Eastman, Anthony Houses, MACs, etc. But, it also suggests: “Cross downtown into the South Wedge neighborhood for the lunch at Mise en Place, a modest grocery-cum-diner with window tables looking out at a string of zib restaurants, pubs and bakeries along South Avenue.

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First-time homebuyers can enjoy this attractive 1,631 sq. ft. two story Colonial style house that comes completely remodeled while retaining its original woodwork in many rooms. The first floor includes: living room with original trim and decorative fireplace with bookcases, dining room with original trim and a powder room. Refinished hardwood floors are on the first and second floor. A spacious kitchen comes with new cabinets, counters, plumbing, flooring. The second floor includes: completely remodeled bathroom with new tub/shower, vanity and commode. Three bedrooms are located on the second floor. The master bedroom contains a dressing area while the rear bedroom has an airy second floor porch. New energy efficient windows throughout. All rooms are freshly painted with new low VOC paint, Green Labeled carpeting on the stairs and second floor bedrooms. New energy efficient light fixtures throughout! Outside a two car garage make Rochester winters less difficult and the driveway is newly resurfaced with blacktop.

Each HomeRochester home also includes such features as: • 150 amp electric panel with circuit breakers • energy efficient 40 gallon gas water heater • 93% high efficiency gas forced air furnace • new roofing with architectural shingles • new baked aluminum gutters and downspouts • maintenance free vinyl siding • trim wrapped in aluminum.

Calvary St. Andrews Big Lunch Set for June 1

by Rose O’Keefe

Whether you’ve lived in the South Wedge for ten weeks or ten years, how many neighbors have you met? For over three years, Big Lunches have been organized by neighbors to encourage, well, neighborliness. With meeting and greeting more neighbors as a goal, the third annual Big Lunch will be held Saturday, June 1 from noon to 2 p.m. at Calvary St. Andrew’s Church, 95 Averill Ave. (at the corner of Averill & Ashland). Neighbors and friends from Averill Avenue, Ashland, Hickory Street, Gregory Street, Gregory Park, Erie Harbor, Hamilton Street, Hamilton Towers, Comfort Street and Hickory Place are all invited. In addition to fun and food, this year, organizers honor early activists who helped turn around the South Wedge in the late 1970s and 80s.

The bagpiper opens the festivities in Big Lunch 2012 (Photo by Doug Root)

Imagine summers enjoying a large wrap around porch that overlooks the front and side yard! This huge 2½ story beauty brings starter house to a new dimension for first-time home buyers. The 1,932 sq. ft. home has been completely remodeled. Enjoy four bedrooms on the second floor, with two including a summer porch. Refinished hardwood floors throughout. Large eat-in kitchen with new cabinets, counters, plumbing and flooring. The large dining room includes cozy bay window and seat. The spacious living room has a decorative fireplace with built in bookcases and French doors to the front porch. The downstairs also comes with a powder room, while the second floor bathroom is completely remodeled with new tub/shower, vanity and commode. All rooms are freshly painted with new low VOC paint. Outside this beauty has a storage shed on a concrete slab and a new asphalt driveway.

For info about the program or the homes that are currently offered, call George Lorson 256-1740, x101.

A bagpiper opens the festivities in Big Lunch 2012 (Photo by Doug Root)

Java entertains (Photo by Doug Root)

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For info about the program or the homes that are currently offered, call George Lorson 256-1740, x101.
A new South Wedge Institution—
The Mise En Plate

by Nathaniel Mich

As part of the celebrations of its five-year anniversary, beloved market/deli/restaurant Mise en Place has released a redesigned and revamped menu. The changes keep prices in line with a casual deli atmosphere and create a distinct culinary fingerprint for Mise en Place relative to its sister restaurant across the street, Zeppa Bistro. I was happy to see that the shaved steak sandwich is still on the menu, and the extensive burger list—over a dozen varieties, each available as a chicken cutlet sandwich as well—certainly merits further investigation. However, the addition that really got my heart racing is Mise en Place’s take on a Rochester institution: the garbage plate.

The Mise En Plate ($8.99) is a relatively straightforward addition to the Plate circuit. Diners can choose either an eight ounce hamburger or two red hot dogs and the usual array of toppings: meat hot sauce, chopped onions, mustard, ketchup and cheese. It’s all served on a bed of fries. Each order comes with red hot sauce and carried in on a plate of her own, but ordered otherwise is Mise En Place’s Specialty Sandwiches – the Chicken Florentine ($7). Juicy grilled chicken breast, provolone, spinach, tomato and pesto mayonnaise are layered in focaccia for a sandwich full of fresh flavors; a filling meal but not a heavy one. The sandwich was delicious and a hit, but on the messy side.

Once I had committed to a Plate, there was no sense in holding back any further, so I ordered mine with red hot sauce and all the fixings. The dogs were flavorful and nicely seared, giving the skin a snap that held up even when I cut them into chunks. The meat hot sauce (“hot sauce” for those who are intermediate) was perfect as a chicken cutlet sandwich was delicious and a hit, but on the messy side.

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Perhaps We Can Help You?
Maverick Jetpants by William Peters

For a first time novelist to be reviewed in the Sunday News, Maverick Reviere is as auspicious a debut as it gets—a literary green light to provide and inspire. Fortunately recent fortune fell upon native son William Peters, born in Hamilton, raised in Fairport, graduated from McQuaid, and author of Maverick Jetpants in the City of Rochester, itself set in Rochester circa 1999. Charmed by Jetpants’ flair, half invented, half real Rochester lexicon (“the Heated Driveway District” comprises Brighton, Pittsford, Mendon and parts of Fairport), the Times-Gazette Roger Boyland concludes that Peters “belongs in the ranks of serious literary artists.” Heady praise indeed. Dr. William E. Peters, Jr.

Described in the very early 20th century had the novelist followed the sometimes nefarious adventures of a group of still aimless Gates-Chili high school graduates. Different students without career plans, the gang drifts through low-level jobs, vaguely considering taking classes at Monroe Community College and worries about economic opportunities as the manufacturing sector erodes, in part the way to information technology.

Much of their time is spent in “Rochester Classic Drive Thru,” stopping at virtually every local cultural icon. Mark’s Texas Tots, Gistis’ Jay and Highland Diners, Dinosaur BBQ, Zebras, Java Joe’s, the Bug Jar, House of Guitars, the Penny Arcade and worries about economic opportunities as the manufacturing sector erodes, in part the way to information technology.

Maverick Jetpants has the City of Quality is not for everyone. But my guess is that you are a thirty-something (and beyond) who has at some point cruised Monroe Avenue, when you read the novel you won’t think about the bankruptcy of Kodak, whether downtown can rebound, or the Rochester brain drain, but will wax nostalgic about your own Rochester Classic Drive Thru.

David Kramer is a Fellow at the David E. DeLuca. Byam comes to this human life. “I saw how close I came to dying” and what might have happened and what important everything was,” said Byam. “I have more a sense of wonder and recognize the wonder-ful things in everyday life. You don’t have to go through a life or death experience to enjoy life.” To learn more visit story-chick.wordpress.com or contact Byam at apryle.byam@gmail.com.

Reggae Fest June 14-16
Carey Lake
Macedon, NY
Vermont Reggae Fest comes to Western New York.
Tickets $22 for students, $35 for public, $70 at the gate.
For more info, e-mail vermontreggae@yahoo.com.

Reggae Fest
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The Wedge Newspaper
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