Plans for Highland Market Rehab Move Forward

by Nancy O'Donnell

Owner Danny Stefanou continues with plans to renovate the dilapidated Highland Market at the corner of South Avenue at Linden St. into a 3,000-square foot full service food market. City officials have described this plan as “a transitional moment for the corner.”

Stefanou has owned the market for more than 30 years. For over 21 years, he leased it out as a convenience store. His most recent design submitted to the City would include removing the back of the building and moving the front of the building to the sidewalk. Parking for 17 cars would be located in the back, and entrances to the property would open from Linden and South Avenue. The renovation will not include a drive through on the property.

During a Sector 6 Neighbors Building Neighborhood meeting in October, residents voiced concern about the materials that might be used in the renovation. They also decryed the current run down exterior and crumbling parking lot. Residents have been assured that the location will remain an R1-residential site which will not allow owners to change it to a larger more commercial business.

Public comment will be accepted again on Tuesday, December 11, 11:30 a.m. in City Council Chambers.

More to enjoy:
- South Wedgians Love Lovely Warren
- Nathaniel Mich’s Talks with his Mouth Full
- Needle Drop Records
- What Would Jesus Buy?
- One-Eyed Sue moves into the Cinema Theater

SWPC Receives Reshaping Rochester Directors’ Award

by Nancy O’Donnell

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) was honored by the Rochester Regional Community Design Center with the Directors’ Award during their annual Reshaping Rochester Award luncheon at Temple B’rith Kodesh on December 5.

In announcing the award, the Center listed the reasons SWPC was honored: “Since 1975, the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) has had a long standing leadership role in the revitalization of the historic city neighborhood. Starting as an outreach program of the Calvary St. Andrew’s Church, this partnership of neighbors, community organizations, institutions and entrepreneurs provided a consistent path of economic and social redevelopment in a neighborhood that was once characterized as challenged, replete with several hundred under-utilized or vacant buildings and storefronts and a myriad of public safety issues. For over three decades, SWPC has achieved a steady and increasing series of accomplishments including tangible physical and social change and a visible achievement of improvement in the quality of life while maintaining choices in housing that have supported both diversity and opportunity. The innovative programs and initiatives supported by this dynamic organization, which include a farmers’ market, community gardens, housing, commercial and business development guidance and a community newspaper, are a model for neighborhoods and urban villages throughout the region and an inspiration for all.”

Overall the Center recognizes winners for their exemplary regional initiatives and projects that positively impact people, neighborhoods and the community. The general public nominates potential awardees for the Robert Macon Award for Urban Innovation and the Betty Strasenburgh Award for Activism.

Why not get your Wedge at home?
Order form on pg. 2

Save the Date!
Meet & Greet SWPC Chair
Learn Ways You Can Help the Community
Win Cool Stuff in a Wedge Me In Raffle!

Brief Membership Meeting followed by Food & Drinks
224 Mt. Hope Avenue

January 24, 2014
6 - 9 p.m.

South Wedge residents applauded the demolition of the run down Downtown Travelodge Lodge at the corner of Bryun Street and South Avenue after developer John Billone, Jr. acquired the property in 2002. Eleven years later, if NY State funding comes through, PathStone, a not-for-profit regional community development organization, will build WedgePoint, an affordable apartment complex with retail space, roof top gardens, outdoor community space and a playground.

For the most part, the South Wedge community is supporting the new construction. In late November, PathStone presented their fourth informational meeting at Zappa Auditorium on Gregory St. They showed updated plans for two three-story energy efficient and LEED Certified buildings on the irregularly shaped lot.

Designs show that Building A, fronting on Byron St, would include one- and two-bedroom apartments, many with views of the downtown skyline. Building B, located on the south end of the lot, will offer one and two bedroom apartments and six ground level three-bedroom apartments. The private pay apartments will have rents ranging from $550-$980, based on income and unit size.

On the ground level, the proposed commercial space measures approximately 5000 square feet. Fencing and low impact security lighting is planned for the perimeter of the parking lot, which will be supplemented with an additional 10 parking spaces leased from ABVI.

Over the last five months, Pathstone representatives and
Meet SWPC’s James Papapanu
by Nancy O’Donnell

the City of Rochester’s
was on the upswing 13 years ago. People were putting work into their houses. I’m a bit of a rustic, and when I saw the brick interior and wood in an old school house apartment at Averill Avenue and Bond Street I knew I couldn’t live anywhere else.”

I liked to fidget around with
has teamed with one to ten other
Jim Papapanu

Meet SWPC’s James Papapanu

For many years, the South East Area Coalition (SEAC) and the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) have discussed working together on projects and programs to benefit southeast Rochester. In 2014, the two non-profits will finally join together in a partnership to build community, enhance housing stock and support local businesses.

SWPC Wants You!

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to join this dynamic nonprofit organization in making a difference in southeast Rochester. Founded in 1978, SWPC works as a conduit to federal or state federal or state grants to help keep people in their aging homes. It added the development of the very vibrant South Avenue Business corridor and works in a myriad of ways to build community through its South Wedge Farmers Market, Victory Gardens and the South Wedge Planning Committee, a community development non-profit organization in making a difference in

You’re time, talent and passion can help us in continuing SWPC’s work.

If interested, call the SWPC office at 256-1746.

The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc.
December/January 2014 Calendar
Meetings are held at 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

The community is invited to attend all meetings.

Save the Date for “City Love” on February 7, 2014
RochesterCares
Be the change. Volunteer.

For over 30 years, The Wedge Newspaper has chronicled the lives and times of our vibrant South Wedge neighborhood. If you enjoy reading the Wedge, please consider subscribing by sending a check or money order.

or considering a donation in the name of someone who helped the South Wedge become what it is today.

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

Subscribe to The Wedge!

For information and/or registration forms
visit our website:
www.rochestercharities.com
Financial Aid

SWIM Team
Adams Street Recreation Center on Cum Hill
85 Adams Street, Rochester, NY 14620

Join the Rochester Rapids Swim Team!
Competitive Swimming for Ages 6 and up
A fun, family oriented swim club, committed to building strong swimmers with strong character

The Wedge Newspaper, a not-for-profit newspaper, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee, a community development non-profit organization in making a difference in Rochester. Its mission is to strengthen the coverage of community news as well as local, state and national news impacting the area.

The Wedge is printed in January (February, April, June, August, October and December) with a circulation of 6,000. The newspaper is distributed through partnerships with community organizations and through partnerships with parks in the Greater area.

Articles in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the South Wedge Planning Committee.

Please write to the editorial offices and send your feedback to The Wedge Newspaper Editor Nancy O’Donnell, 224 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620 or e-mail news@swpc.org.

Advertisements deadline and rates are available online at www.wedge.org or call Nancy O’Donnell at 678-9638.

Before recycling the Wedge, please check with your bank, neighbor or co-worker.

Our Mission Statement
SWPC builds community in the South Wedge corridor and embraces a range of housing opportunities and promotes a diverse, historic, significant, commercially sustainable urban village.

Ad Deadline for Next Issue January 24
Call 256-1740, ext. 105 or 978-9638 for rates.
Community Builders

by Nancy O'Donnell

Undead Run Supports the Special Olympics

RPD Lieutenant Frank Alberti at the City of Rochester’s Southeast Neighborhood Service Center and daughter Francesca became zombies for a day to support the Special Olympics New York in the rUNDEAD, a 5k race along a marked trail in Genesee Valley Park.

“This was the first annual rUNDEAD held in Rochester,” said Lt. Alberti. “Participants could either be runners or zombies. The object of the race was for runners to weave their way along a marked trail in Genesee Valley Park, avoiding zombies stationed throughout the race. Each runner started the race with three flags around their waists. Zombies chased the runners and tried to grab the flags. If the runners lost all three flags, they had to be quarantined for the remainder of the race. If the runners completed the race with at least one flag, they were eligible to win a prize.”

Makeup artists volunteered their services to transform participants into bloodthirsty zombies.

“The zombies only needed to dress the part. I was a zombie police officer and Francesca was a zombie college student. We had a great time participating and rUNDEAD raised $11,816.00 for the Special Olympics.”

Special Olympics New York is a private non-profit 501(c) (3) organization and is funded primarily by donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. Special Olympics New York never changes athletes, their families or caregivers to train or compete.

Meet Kelvin Knight

Kelvin Knight hit the ground running when he joined the City of Rochester Southeast Neighborhood Service Center as new Assistant Administrator.

“It’s a job I went to school for, to work directly with the community and develop policy that affects people’s lives and provides services that improve the community,” said Knight.

One of his first projects was to help to facilitate the “Voice of the Citizen,” a series of citywide community meetings held over several weeks in fall. The City initiative was created to ask communities to indicate important issues: design public safety projects, employ youth and create traffic calming strategies. One of the projects will employ city youth to deliver information to City neighborhoods about available services.

Knight is also getting to know many of the current businesses owners in the City. “I’m speaking with current owners about Good Neighbor Agreements that educate them about City Code and expectations. Just the basics. Are the outsides of their buildings safe and clean? Are they preventing loitering, pollution? Are they blasting music?”

A Cobbs Hill resident, Knight was born and raised in the Markerview Heights neighborhood. He attended Pittsford –Mendon High School as part of the Urban Suburban Inter-district Transfer Program. From there, he studied at the University of Rochester, earning a degree in Psychology in 1989.

“I was thinking about being a psychiatrist, but organic chemistry stopped me,” laughed Knight. Instead he left Rochester and began working in Detroit as a social worker focusing on mental health. He later moved to Chicago and married. While in Chicago he earned a M.P.H. in Public Health and through it found a greater appreciation for Rochester. “I learned more about Rochester in Chicago [than I did living here],” said Knight. “In one class the professor talked about how much disposable income per capita was in Rochester. It had four or five Fortune 500 companies. It was a prosperous time for a city of its size.”

Knight and his family returned to Rochester in 1998, Kelvin took a job at Xerox and over the years with his then assistant Administrator Kelvin Knight (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)
wife raised son Kelvin, Jr. and daughter Kaila. In 2008, he was hired by the City of Rochester. As a Property Conservation Inspector, he responded to citizen complainants and visited homes in violation.

“My service background and work with mentally ill teenagers and adults helped me in my work,” he said. “I can talk to anyone, and I’m a multitasker.”

Even while doing a job that can be very stressful—upset tenants, upset landlords—Knight discovered it to be a plus.

“Working as an inspector in the northeast was the greatest experience,” Knight said. “I got to see the high quality of the architecture in the worst neighborhoods. There was a great amount of artistry in the woodwork and stonework. One house had faces carved into the woodwork and stonework. One neighborhood. There was a...”

Throughout his career, Knight has been involved with kids helping them to get into general classes and put me in advanced classes. In summer I got a medical school internship at the University of Rochester. It was a great experience to see what can happen after you graduate. [Experiences like that] let children see the world from a different perspective.”

A couple summers ago Kelvin organized free outdoor family movie nights that served the Southwest neighborhoods. “I want to get it started again if I can get funding,” said Knight.

Along with his work at the SE Neighborhood Service Center, Knight works part-time at Hillside Children’s Alumni. “To contact Knight, call 428-7640.

“Working with kids, helping them with [the]...”

Holiday Safety Tips

Here are some tips to keep you and your valuables safe during the holidays and darker winter months:

• Remain alert at all times.
• Walk with others when possible.
• Walk in well lit areas.
• Avoid displaying expensive items such as cell phones, iPads, electronics and jewelry.
• Have your keys in your hand and ready to unlock your vehicle as you approach it.
• Approach your vehicle, look in the front and rear seats before you enter.
• Lock your vehicle as soon as you enter it.
• If someone approaches your vehicle in the parking lot inquiring about directions or asking any other questions, do not open your window or roll your windows down.
• When in or around your vehicle park in well lit areas.
• Park in areas with high concentrations of pedestrians and vehicles.
• Keep packages, valuables and electronics out of sight in your vehicle.
• Before leaving your vehicle, make sure the windows and doors are secure.
• Take a second or two to ensure you or your vehicle are not easy targets.

SAFETY FIRST!

Congratulations to the businesses in the South Wedge area and beyond who made the cut in the City Newspaper’s Best of the City...

Best Indian Restaurant
– India House, 998 S. Clinton Avenue

Best retail – Little Bleu Cheese Shop, 684 South Avenue and Phread, 654 South Avenue

Best bar – The King’s Cut, 389 Gregory St.

Best mural – The Vine
– Tap & Mallet, 381 Gregory Street

Best dance studio – Tango Cafe, 389 Gregory St.

Best jule box – Lux Lounge, 666 South Ave.
DePaul Holiday Helpers

DePaul, a not-for-profit community support organization, is seeking community support for its annual Holiday Helpers Program. For more info about the Holiday Helpers Program or to volunteer, please contact Amy Cavalier at (585) 426-8000, ext. 3102 or via email at acavalier@depaul.org.

City Looks to Reforest Mt. Hope Cemetery

The City of Rochester is asking residents to help them in their goal to “plant roots that will grow to captivate future generations of citizens.”

Mount Hope Cemetery commemorating its 175th anniversary in 2013 is hailed as an active cemetery, arboretum, a park, a historic landmark and a community treasure. The cemetery is one of the most photographed and visited location in the area. Most recently, City Newspaper devoted several pages to tell its story in photos.

Mount Hope’s original planners chose the hilly, heavily forested area, then several miles outside the city, for its natural beauty. Many tree specimens were added over the years, but age and Rochester’s rigorous weather has taken its toll.

The City is now soliciting private donations, small and large, to help with reforestation efforts. Donors can contribute online via credit card or by mail. If mailing, the City asks donors to print out and use the Reforest Mt. Hope donation form available online at www.cityofrochester.gov/reforestmounthope and mail it with a check payable to “City Treasurer, Reforest Mount Hope” to Reforest Mount Hope Cemetery, 1133 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620.

Contributor levels range from Mount Hope Steward ($10-$99), to Ellwanger & Barry Society ($250-$999), Mount Hope Steward ($10-$99) and Anthony & Douglass Society ($1,000 and up).

Highland Conservancy

You’re invited to the Fifth Annual Holiday Party at the Highland Park Conservatory on December 4. Enjoy refreshments, conversation, and the opportunity to see the Conservatory bedecked to its holiday finery. The party is held at the Lamberton Conservatory, 180 Reservoir Avenue, Rochester, and is free of charge. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Metro Justice Annual Alternative Fair Dec. 4-7

For 32 years, Metro Justice has held this family-oriented holiday shopping experience that supports just and sustainable wages for workers by featuring fair trade or hand crafted goods, a concert by Buddhahood, a tree lighting, s'mores, and more.

South Wedge Mission’s Advent Calendar

Dec. 7 - It's Wonderful Life in the Wedge - St. Joe’s Collection Dec. 7 - Rochester Free Store Open - 3:30-5:00 p.m. with gift wrapping
Dec. 8 - Sunday Evening Worship 5 p.m.
Dec. 8 - Film Screening: What Would Jesus Buy? and discussion with Nancy O’Donnell - 7 p.m.
Dec. 15 - Beer & Carols at Tap and Mallet - arrive 5 p.m., singing at 6 p.m.
Dec. 21 - Rochester Free Store Open - 3:30-5 p.m. with gift wrapping
Dec. 22 - Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 p.m.
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service (for the whole family!) - 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 25 - DIY Advent Calendar - “Like” us on Facebook!

Randall Pollok

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Enjoy 20% off your entire purchase

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Saturday 8:30am-5pm
Sunday Closed
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South Wedge Home Wins Landmark Society Award

A South Wedge home at 40 Linden Street was recently honored at the Landmark Society of Western New York’s annual Preservation Awards ceremony at City Hall. The annual awards are given to individuals and organizations in a nine-county area who have made outstanding efforts in the preservation of their homes, historic properties or landscapes. The Society’s newsletter detailed the Linden Street home’s history in its Winter issue. According to the article, the house was constructed by the Ellwanger and Barry Realty Company in the Mt. Hope neighborhood between 1875-1884. Two generations of the Charles Houston family lived in the home.

The Closet Murders Now Available on DVD

The Closet Murders made its Rochester premiere at The Genium Theatre’s hosting of Rochester Movie Makers’ Third Annual Shmoovies Film Festival in September. Directed by Toronto filmmaker Suzy Patrick, the film was shot in 1969 on Super 8 film in Montreal, Canada. Copies of the DVD are available by contacting Executive Producer Taylor Whitne at taylor@preservethepast.com.

Discover the Warner Castle & the Rochester Civic Garden - Part One

by Christine Froehlich

Many drive by Warner Castle every day, but few know its history or the man who lived there. Horatio Gates Warner designed The Warner Castle in 1854 to resemble the ancestral castle of the Clan Douglas, which captivated his fancy during a visit to Scotland. His lifelong friendship with John Ramsden, who worked in Canaan, Columbia County NY, Warner graduated from Union College in 1826. During his lifetime he was a lawyer, judge, banker and publisher of the daily Advertiser.

Originally, the castle was situated on many acres of land serving as the family’s farm. It is constructed with 22 inch thick hand hewn native limestone from a local quarry. At one time there were three iron balconies, and two iron dogs guarded the front entrance which was approached by a circular driveway. The gatehouse was erected in 1857 as the Warner’s coachman’s. There were originally 22 rooms and 62 doors in the castle. Original plans for the Castle are in the Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester.

Horatio Gates Warner died in 1876 on his plantation near Greensboro, Georgia and is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery on the west side of Mt. Hope Avenue. After his death, his son John Warner inherited the property and lived in it with his family. In about 1900, he sold the castle to Mr. and Mrs. George Ramusdell. In 1912, they sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dennis. Mr. Dennis, a Rochester candy manufacturer died in 1927. His widow Merety Dennis inherited his estate, which was valued at nearly one million dollars. She hired landscape architect, Alling S. DeForest to design and construct the sunken garden which sits behind the Warner Castle.

DeForest, a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, contributed to a wide

continued on pg 12. 

Headz Up Hats & Salon

Headz Up Hats & Salon bunted with business during November, celebrating the shop’s anniversary. Their women staffed in to show their “hatitude” for the Wedge camera Owner Tonja McNair said the store is packed with winter hats and special events.

524 Mt. Hope Avenue, 442.7680.

Pamela Bradford, Patricia Wilks, Vanessa Miller-Floyd

SwPC Annual Mtg. January 24, 6 p.m. 224 Mt. Hope Avenue

South Wedge Buzz

by Alexis Cruz Puran, MD

It is that time of year again, the holiday season, a time where children look forward to receiving toys as gifts. Toys are supposed to be fun and are an important part in a child’s development. But each year, scores of children are treated in hospital emergency departments for toy-related injuries. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), more than 250,000 toy-related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2010. Of those, about one third involved children under 5. It is important to keep safety in mind when selecting toys for children. It is vital to read the warning labels on toys. These labels give important information about how to use a toy and what ages the toy is appropriate for. You may think that a child who’s advanced in comparison to peers can handle toys meant for older children. But the age levels for toys are determined by safety factors, not intelligence or maturity.

Choking is a particular risk for children ages 3 or younger, because they put objects in their mouths. Make sure all toys and parts are larger than your child’s mouth to prevent choking. Children can choke or suffocate on deflated or broken balloons. Keep deflated balloons away from children younger than eight years old. Discard broken balloons at once.

Children can have serious stomach and intestinal problems, including death after swallowing button batteries and magnets. In addition to toys, button batteries are often found in musical greeting cards, remote controls, hearing aids and other small electronics. Keep them away from young children and call your health care provider immediately if your child swallows one.

Choose toys with good design and quality construction. Watch out for toys that have sharp edges, small parts or sharp points. Avoid toys that produce extremely loud noises that can damage hearing and propelled objects that can injure eyes. Check to see that plush (stuffed) toys have age-appropriate features such as embroidered or secured eyes and noses for younger children, and seams that are reinforced to withstand an older child’s play.

Immediately discard plastic wrappings or other packaging on toys. A holiday becomes dangerous play things. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children. Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies. Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings in a designated location, such as on a shelf or in a toy chest.

Check the Consumer Product Safety Commission website for the latest information about toy recalls or call their hotline at (800) 638-CPSC to report a toy you think is unsafe.

Wishing you and your family remain safe and healthy during this holiday season!

People, Sir Walter Scott’s heart was buried there. Spotted at Mt. Hope Cemetery

The Closet Murders RESURRECTED

The Closet Murders made its Rochester premiere at The Genium Theatre’s hosting of Rochester Movie Makers’ Third Annual Shmoovies Film Festival in September. Directed by Toronto filmmaker Suzy Patrick, the film was shot in 1969 on Super 8 film in Montreal, Canada. Copies of the DVD are available by contacting Executive Producer Taylor Whitne at taylor@preservethepast.com.

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NeedleDrop Records

by Richie Martin

Spent some time walking around the South Wedge, and it quickly becomes apparent that it has a vibrant artistic community. From the paintings on the sides of buildings and utility boxes to the music playing in the stores, the South Wedge definitely has its own sense of style including Needle Drop Records.

The shop focuses almost entirely on older mediums of music in this case vinyl and cassettes. Walking into the store can feel like taking a step into the past.

“There will always be a market for vinyl. It just has something special about it,” said owner Russ Torregiano, who recently celebrated his second year in business. He might just be right. Consider that people still purchase black and white films and even silent films like Nosferatu. Some of which haveパス.

Iconic cult classic movies rest under the glass cover and share space with Simpsons memorabilia. It’s thanks to stores like Needle Drop that bands like this are able to get their start. Torregiano feels there can always be more done to help local and independent musicians. Many musicians forming bands are getting younger than 21. Often times when they want to attend live shows they are unable because of age restrictions. Torregiano feels that Rochester needs to have more venues to allow these the younger people to get the full exposure he did when he started going to shows in the early 90’s.

To that end he takes part in the South Wedge Music Festival, an event that helps developing and independent musicians spread the word about their music. Traditionally events like this bring together several local record store owners and various artists who put their works and materials on display. What makes the Festival truly unique is some albums are released in the stores that can’t be found online. Here people are able to exchange and purchase albums from various artists and discover new ones as well.

“This is like a big flea market,” said Torregiano. “People start waiting in line as early as 6 a.m. for a 10 a.m. opening. This year over three hundred people showed up just for this one day event. That is part of what makes the South Wedge and stores like Needle Drop special, their dedication and loyalty to the independent artist. Record stores give to communities not only music but a common place for people who love music to come together and share their passions. This close community of musicians and store owners are here to stay, thanks to the dedication of musicians and store owners who are keeping this scene alive. It was A/C DC who put it best when they said “Let there be Rock”, and that is indeed the case at NeedleDrop.

304 Gregory Street, 271-6785

This creative control allows for the independent or underground musicians and artists to make a name for themselves.

“Really as long as there are stores selling music that’s a good thing” says Torregiano, “and if those stores can sell instruments to even better.”

In many ways that is what Needle Drop is about—exploring and celebrating music an individual has created. So older mediums like vinyl and cassettes are here to stay, thanks to the dedication of musicians and store owners who are keeping this scene alive. It was A/C DC who put it best when they said “Let there be Rock”, and that is indeed the case at NeedleDrop.

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304 Gregory Street, 271-6785
A YEAR IN THE WEDGE

293 Hamilton Street rehabbed by SWPC in 2013

Calvary St. Andrew’s Big Lunch in June featured Matt Weasner on bagpipes

The Amish Puppy Mill won first prize in Night of the Living Wedge in October (l-r) Jennifer Posey, Larry Jessup and Nancy Dailey and Kate Sweeney

SWPC Co-Vice Chair Donna Roethel Lenhard on Cypress Street Build a Victory Garden Day

U of R students from around the nation and the world clean up during Wilson Day

The Cinema Theater welcomed One-eyed Sue from Lollipop Farm in 2013. See her at the box office & read her movie reviews on Facebook.

RIP Princess Baby, resident feline at the Cinema Theater

(above) Filmmaker and Director Susan Patrick with Executive Producer and President and Founder of Preserving The Past, LLC, Taylor Whitney at the Rochester red carpet pre-screening Schmoovie party at Rooney’s Restaurant party

(left) Artist Gaia transforms the SWPC building during Wall Therapy

SWPC Board member Nathaniel Mich at Thanksgiving Day Wedge Waddle

The Cinema Theater welcomed One-eyed Sue from Lollipop Farm in 2013. See her at the box office & read her movie reviews on Facebook.

Boardmembers Tom Kislar and Monica McCullough marry

The Amish Puppy Mill won first prize in Night of the Living Wedge in October (l-r) Jennifer Posey, Larry Jessup and Nancy Dailey and Kate Sweeney

RIP Princess Baby, resident feline at the Cinema Theater

(above) Filmmaker and Director Susan Patrick with Executive Producer and President and Founder of Preserving The Past, LLC, Taylor Whitney at the Rochester red carpet pre-screening Schmooovie party at Rooney’s Restaurant party

(left) Artist Gaia transforms the SWPC building during Wall Therapy

SWPC Co-Vice Chair Donna Roethel Lenhard on Cypress Street Build a Victory Garden Day

U of R students from around the nation and the world clean up during Wilson Day

The Cinema Theater welcomed One-eyed Sue from Lollipop Farm in 2013. See her at the box office & read her movie reviews on Facebook.
It’s just gorgeous. There’s a lot. It’s a Christmas card on steroids. Pine trees are covered with snow.
Everything is white. The trails to a new summit. Thru-hiker, Bill Kanaskie, with the SWPC, Papapanu works as a requirements analyst at Leveraging Technology, an IT firm in High Falls. A current project keeps him commuting to Buffalo 4-5 times a week.

Market, Victory Garden, block clubs, and absolutely the Wedge Newspaper.”
He’s especially committed to seeing the Farmers Market move beyond just being sustainable to growing. “It’s important that it stay in the neighborhood and that it be accessible by foot.”
When not volunteering at SWPC, Papapanu works as a requirements analyst at Leveraging Technology, an IT firm in High Falls. A current project keeps him commuting to Buffalo 4-5 times a week.

Mountain climbing remains his greatest love. This past summer, he became eligible to join the Adirondack 46ers by finishing with his favorite times are in fall and winter. With compass and map and a team of climbers, he’s maneuvered the snow-covered trails to a new summit. Winter [in the mountains] is beautiful. Everything is white. The pine trees are covered with snow. It’s a Christmas card on steroids. It’s just gorgeous. There’s a lot.

more solitude and it’s quiet and serene.”
Back on flat ground in the South Wedge, Papapanu is working with SWPC on some of its current projects: selling the newly rehabbed home on Hamilton Street to a first time home-buyer, restoring a summer community street festival, looking for new projects to promote the South Wedge, and getting ready to meet the community at the SWPC Open House on January 24. “I’m a big hockey fan, and I grew up playing hockey. I was taught the name on the front of the jersey is more important than the name on the back. You learn it’s not about individuals. To get a job done you have to be willing to work together. It means putting ego and personal interests aside to accomplish something as a group. It’s the same thing working with the SWPC Board, or on any project in our community.”

What does Rochester have in common with Republic of Congo, Lakki Marwat, Pakistan, Bogota, Colombia or Nagasaki, Japan? We are all lucky to have Little Libraries! This spring in the Highland Park Neighborhood, a group of like-minded neighbors decided to work together to enhance our community with Little Free Libraries. The idea is to share books with your neighbors, increase conversations and build community one book at a time. Little Libraries started in Wisconsin in 2009 and in the last five years have been built all over the world. Currently, two are registered in Brighton and one on Azalea Road in the Strong neighborhood. The newest two are on Rockingham and Caroline Streets. The Corn Hill Neighborhood is also joining in the movement.

Neighbors and Master artisans, Peter Keenan and Chris Kase, built the bases of our new libraries. Don Olney sharing his amazing woodworking skills in decorating it. Other neighbors painted and put them up. It is truly a community effort!

Little Free Library Open on Rockingham St.

by Rachel Larson

What Would Jesus Buy is described as “an examination of the commercialization of Christmas in America while following Reverend Billy (aka Bill Talen) and the Church of Stop Shopping Gospel Choir on a cross-country mission to save Christmas from the Shopocalypse. The film will be shown Sunday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. at the South Wedge Mission, 125 Caroline Street. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-9638 or 746-3048.

middle photo (l-r) Mel Olney, Rachel Larson, Harry Larson, Brian Larson, Addie Larson, Peter Keenan (library creator), Don Olney (library decorator) and RJ Larson (Photo by Michael Tomy)
Talking With My Mouth Full - Zemeta Vegetarian Buffet

December 2013/January 2014

by Nathaniel Mich

The new Zemeta Ethiopian Restaurant on South Clinton is a welcome addition to the diverse restaurant community of the South Wedge and its surrounding neighborhoods. Rochester's Ethiopian restaurants do not seem to be blessed by great longevity, but after one meal there, I certainly hope that Zemeta bucks the trend. Open everyday but Tuesday, Zemeta offers beef, lamb, chicken and vegetarian entrees. However, as a meat eater who sometimes just wants a big pile of vegetables, it was the vegetarian buffet offered Fridays and Saturdays that caught my eye. Perhaps this will go some distance in soothing the ache that some of us still feel after the closure of India House's (Zemeta's across-the-street neighbor) vegetarian cafe, all those years ago.

It would perhaps be more accurate, however, to describe Zemeta's Vegetarian Buffet as a Lentilitarian Buffet. For lovers of legumes, this $10 all-you-can-eat is a paradise, with no fewer than four lentil (or split pea or chickpea) dishes in a range of rich earth tones and flavors. Accompanying the magical fruit stews were two green veggie dishes: green beans and cabbage, basic salad fixings and a pile of injera -- a spongy Ethiopian flatbread made from gluten free teff. I must confess to you, Dear Reader, that, besides the injera, I have no idea what any of the food I ate is called. There were no labels, the verbal explanation was along the lines of "lentils, lentils, split peas and chickpeas," and I was too focused on stuffing my face to ask for their true names. So, I beg your forgiveness as we present a review by color:

First, the dark red stuff. Made of small lentils (like French or beluga lentils) cooked to just past al dente, this stew was rich, sweet and smoky. This was the spiciest of the four, but it was a lingering heat, slow to build and reminiscent of chipotle. The heat married nicely with the sweet, unctuous, red pepper-based sauce. Next, the green stuff. This stew was made of split peas and provided a fresh, soft contrast to its more intense neighbor. The flavors were herbal and light, and small pieces of fresh jalapeno provided a slight heat. This stew had a tomato-based sauce, which contributed the tart and fruity flavor profile you might expect. Ever so slightly spicy, the acidity of this dish made it a nice foil and palate cleanser. My favorite of the quartet, however, was the golden stew. Made with chickpeas cooked well past the fall-apart stage in an onion-enriched sauce, this stew was aromatic and bright, but had depth as well. The key, I believe, is argan nut oil. Americans are more likely to encounter argan oil in cosmetics than in food, but this oil has an amazing flavor. Musty and slightly earthy, but still in the higher registers of flavor, argan nut oil brings notes of caramel and incense to the foods in which it's used. It is a flavor to make you sit up and pay attention to your food. The green vegetables were comparatively bland and overcooked to my taste, but the injera onto which I greedily shoveled my multicolored legumes was lovely. Zemeta's layout is a little odd, with a small dining room (maybe 18 seats) separated by a few steps from the buffet room and a larger, rear dining room. There is lots of light though, and the posters of Ethiopian landmarks and historical figures are interesting to look at. The service is friendly, but of the slow and slightly scattered variety that I have come to associate with family restaurants. The food was wholesome, healthful and tasty, and my companion and I enjoyed ourselves a great deal. I look forward to exploring Zemeta's full menu (and takeout), and hope that theirs is not a fleeting contribution to our area.

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Swiftwater Brewery & Pub Taking Shape

Swiftwater Brewery & Pub has begun “a ton of renovation” at 378 Mt. Hope Avenue at Hickory Street. Andrew Cook, co-owner with his father Bill Cook, started landscaping outside and working with architects with the floor plan inside. Cook reports that if all goes well with the necessary permits, Swiftwater Brewery & Pub will open early summer 2014. For updates and photos, visit Swiftwater on Facebook.

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Warner Castle continued from pg.5

The Castle is open to the public free of charge for self-guided tours; Tuesday through Thursday from 9am-4pm. Library hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. We are open occasional Saturdays from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Please call us at 585.473.5130 to inquire about Saturday open hours.