

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER *The* OF THE SOUTH WEDGE

# WEDGE

Vol. 1 No. 8

FEBRUARY, 1983

SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE • OAKLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION • SOUTH WEDGE ACTING TOGETHER

## From Eyesore To Elegance — A Transformation



Phyllis McKinzie's building in the 1930's....



... Nearly completed transformation

by Jay Parsons

Another prominent Wedge landmark is now nearly restored, having been brought from eyesore to elegance. The past few months have witnessed the gradual, careful transformation of the property on the corner of Gregory and South from a boarded, dingy wreck, to the elegant blue, brick, and white mansard roofed beauty which now graces the Four Corners of the Wedge. Phyllis McKinzie, the building's owner,

working with skilled craftsman and restorer, Luke Wells, has brought the century-old building back from near oblivion.

Built in 1870, as a tavern, the property has gone through a number of changes and tenants over the years. It has been a sweet shop and ice-cream parlor, a grocery store, beauty parlor, and its upper story was, for a few glorious wet/dry years in the '20s—a speakeasy!

Unfortunately, by the time Ms. McKinzie acquired the building it had been resurfaced in stucco, the roof had been covered over, and the exterior wainscoting removed. The present restoration approximates the original, and the new work on the side of the building, continuing the windows and front pillars, adds significantly to the building's facade and character.

The restoration of yet another highly visible Wedge landmark adds much to the ongoing renewal of the neighborhood, and the transformation of an architectural-hulk, into a building of charm and grace is further inspiration to us all. In subsequent issues of *The Wedge* we plan to feature more restoration and rehab projects. If you have a property on the way up, or if you know of an especially interesting rehab project in the South Wedge, please let us know!

Now, with its dreary stucco peeling off to reveal an elegant brick facade, the structure contains two charming shops (each with paned windows, oak floors and brick walls) on the ground floor, expansive, light airy office space, and an unusual loft apartment on the second. The third floor is an enormous high-ceilinged 1200 sq. ft. loft, whose bowed walls give it the feel of a turn-of-the-

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### SWPC Honors Marie Daley

Marie Daley is more than a familiar face to South Wedge residents. Living in an 1868 Ellwanger and Barry house in the Mt. Hope Highland Preservation District, she has been active in the Wedge area activities for nearly three decades. Her accomplishments are many (although she modestly begs to differ). Marie's continuous service to the neighborhood is most visible, and will surely be remembered by Wedge neighbors for many years to come.

"Marie is tireless in her energy and vision for the South Wedge. She's always willing to assist others whether it's by taking them shopping, organizing on a zoning issue or calling City Hall—she's been the ad hoc mayor of the South Wedge for a long time. Marie commands respect by her presence," says Rev. Judy Lee Hay, director for Southwedge Planning Committee (SWPC).

Miss Daley first moved to the City's South Wedge area in the mid-1950s upon promotion and acceptance of the position of principal of Horace Mann School #13.

Marie recalls facing many new challenges as principal, although working in an urban school system was not new to her. She had held several other teaching positions in the City's School District, including vice-principal of School #15, which no longer stands. Fondly remembering her eight-years as principal of School #13, Marie chuckles as she recalls that "we got along pretty good (the school kids and Marie). I don't know, maybe they just tolerated me!"



Marie Daley

Josh Canfield, founder of the South Wedge Historical Office and a student at School #13 when Marie was principal, remembers her sincere dedication and devotion to the students. "What really impressed me, and it's something I'll never forget, was when it came time for report cards to be sent home, Marie would review each one, for every student, and write a comment on the student's progress. Where she found the time, I'll never know," Canfield says.

Marie started her post-high school education in Rochester at the City Normal School. After completion of the three-year course required of teachers, Marie decided to earn a Bachelor's degree from Columbia University in New York City. Studying during the summers in the late 1930s, she went on to receive a Master's Degree in Education from Columbia. Summers in New York City

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# COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS/LETTERS



## Senator Jack Perry's Got Things Moving

Dear Richard,

As president of the South Wedge Planning Committee, (SWPC) I was surprised to read in the last issue of *The WEDGE Newspaper* that Assemblyman Gary Proud was so instrumental in our organization's quest for funding from the State Department of Housing and Community Renewal. (SWPC's funding source).

I do not wish to disparage any efforts made on our behalf by Mr. Proud, however, I am a firm believer in giving credit. As such, I would like to recognize and commend the efforts of Senator Jack Perry, who sweated this one through with us to the end.

This grant would probably never have gotten out without a lot of arm twisting by Sen. Perry. I, personally, was in communication with Sen. Perry's office perhaps as many as 25 times during the last three months to keep abreast of the status, and ongoing efforts he put forth on our behalf.

This grant allows us to operate and continue to serve the community through programs such as: housing, materials grants for rehab, the Urban Workcamp program, which is designated to train

youth in employment skills, and obtain contracts with Rochester Jobs to employ youth in employment skills, and obtain contracts with Rochester Jobs to employ youth in area businesses during the summer months; the Lending Tool Library, which is available to all Wedge residents; the training of volunteers for HILP programs; development of major strategy, and marketing approach to aid existing business and recruit new business to the Wedge area; working closely with the City of Rochester on reconstruction and beautification of South Avenue, and other commercial areas. These and many more are examples of projects SWPC is involved in.

Our neighborhood can and should feel good about the kind of representation that we have received from Sen. Perry. I wish to thank the Senator very much on behalf of myself, the South Wedge Planning Committee, and the entire neighborhood which benefits from his representation.

Sincerely,  
Robert A. Shepherd  
President, Chairperson  
South Wedge Planning  
Committee  
Rochester, NY 14620

## SWPC Annual Meeting Scheduled For Feb. 17

On Thursday evening, February 17, 1983, the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) is holding its 6th Annual Convention at the Nutrition Site, which is housed at the South Avenue Baptist Church. The evening promises to be exciting, as well as informative. The Planning Committee would like to encourage all area residents and neighborhood organizations to attend.

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 5:30-6:00 Refreshments/gathering  
6:00-7:00 Pot luck dinner—bring a dish to pass. For more information call Ann Costello at 325-4950.  
7:15 Bob Shepherd, Chair of the South Wedge Planning Committee. Review of 1983 Accomplishments. Highlight of 1983 Goals. Senator J. Perry and other City Officials.  
7:35 Tribute to Marie Daley—Rev. Judy Hay, Neighborhood speakers  
8:00 Concert—South Side Seniors Band  
8:30 Annual Elections/musical selections  
9:00 Adjourn

South Wedge Planning Committee Goals for 1983:

- Continue to expand the Lending Tool Library
- Continue development of Materials Grant Program
- Assist South Wedge residents apply for City Rehab Programs
- Continue operation of Summer Urban Workcamp
- Energy Workcamp—energy awareness workshops, and "weatherize" 30 homes of low-income, and elderly, homeowners in the South Wedge

• The Wedge Newspaper—continue publication and distribution

• Commercial Development of South Avenue—develop and implement further steps in a major strategy for recruiting and assisting businesses on South Ave.

• Commercial Parking lot for South Avenue

• Expand the Historical Office and dissemination of landmark information

• Gateway (Riverpark Commons) Land Use Study

• Continued work in zoning and code enforcement

• Community Development—priority recommendations and budget allocations

• Disposition of the building at 94 Averill Ave.

• Secure maintenance contract for vacant lots and/or problem properties.

## City Gets Tough With Municipal Code

Dear Neighborhood Association:

It is our pleasure to announce a new intensified program aimed at making the city more attractive, especially its downtown and neighborhood commercial districts, by coordinating and assuring enforcement of Rochester's Municipal Code.

The program will begin on Thursday, January 27, with a two-week grace period, during which warning tickets will be issued to offenders for the full spectrum of municipal code violations, ranging from littering and refuse preparation offenses to lack of ice and snow removal from front walks.

There are two important new features of the program: An expanded force trained in code procedures (including City Downtown Patrol Police Officers, Police Parking Monitors, Code Enforcement Inspectors and Neighborhood Conservation Officers) is now authorized to issue appearance tickets. A the same

time, a ticket adjudication process has been designed to deal with offenders.

The new process, modeled after the City's successful parking adjudication program, allows those who receive a Municipal Code Violation Ticket to simply pay established fines at the cashier's window (second floor in the Public Safety Building), or to present their case before an impartial hearing officer. Together with an expanded enforcement team and a stiff fine scale for scofflaws, this process ensures compliance by making penalties inevitable for offenders, while sparing the City Court Docket from the extra case-load. The fine schedule is:

	Penalty	Failure to Respond
First Offense	\$10.00	\$ 20.00
Second Offense	\$20.00	\$ 40.00
Third Offense	\$50.00	\$100.00

Remember that although this pro-

gram offers some new solutions, has generated strong community-wide support and aims at a relatively few city code scofflaws who spoil public resources for the rest of us, both the problems we are facing and the laws aimed at ending them have been around for a long time. It's your commitment that will make this campaign a success.

An attractive community brings in shoppers and residents, increases property values and improves business. It all adds up to a better lifestyle for everyone. If you have any questions about the Municipal Code Enforcement Program, please call 428-7065.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Andronaco  
Downtown Women's  
Coalition

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WEDGE is a newspaper published monthly in a cooperative effort by South Wedge Planning Committee, Oakland Park Neighborhood Association and South Wedge Acting Together. These organizations, their members and the staff make every attempt to provide accurate coverage of neighborhood news as well as local, state and national news that affects the neighborhood. Articles in this paper do not necessarily reflect the view and/or opinions of the above mentioned organizations, their staffs or their members. Please send any story suggestions, new releases, etc. to EDITOR, c/o 36 Comfort St., Rochester, N.Y. 14620, before the 15th of each month preceding the issue in which you want information announced.

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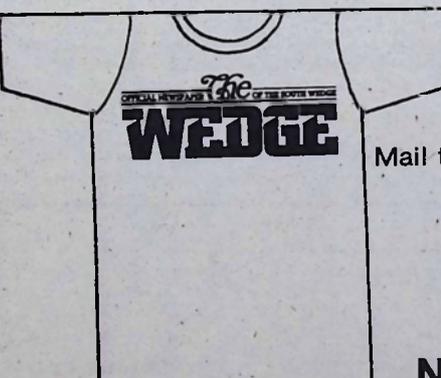
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## Hearts & Flowers At Dawson

Dawson Gallery gets the "Hearts and Flowers" treatment during February. The usually pristine, refined gallery will take on an air of Victorian splendor, be-decked with ribbons, lace and satin for a special Valentine presentation.

Rosemary Disney is the artist whose skill will accomplish all this. Mrs. Disney is a local celebrity. She achieved professional notoriety originally with her unique treatment of eggs which she markets at Cartier's in New York City and Paris. She wrote a book on the history of jeweled eggs, illustrated with full-page color photographs of historically significant art pieces in this media.

Currently, Mrs. Disney is under contract to ABC TV Network as art/craft consultant. Her regularly filmed segments on crafts are aired on "Good Morning, America." She also films a segment in Los Angeles monthly for a west-coast produced "Morning Show."

Mrs. Disney has produced a series of cards for display and sale at Dawson.

## GTC Open House February 18

The Genesee Transportation Council (GTC) will hold an "Open House" from 1 pm to 4 pm at its new offices, 65 West Broad St., on Friday, February 18.

The meeting is open to the public, and should be of interest to South Wedge residents. GTC's area includes: the City of Rochester, the counties of: Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, and Yates. Also included are: the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council—Rochester-Genesee Regional Transportation Authority.

## Business Booming in Rehab Effort

Not all businesses suffer during economic recession. A case in point is The Clothes Closet, a second-hand clothing store located at 429 South Avenue. The attractive shop is stocked with a pleasing selection of used clothing for all ages, and also sells other household items—all in good, serviceable condition. As inflation gnaws its way through society, more and more people are finding their way to The Clothes Closet.

This is good news for the store, although they aren't in business to make a profit. In addition to offering clothing at super-reasonable prices, The Clothes Closet is performing a far more important social service. The store is sponsored and operated by members of the Commons Psychosocial Club, part of the support system provided by the Rehabilitation Services Unit of the Rochester Psychiatric Center. The Commons is one of several psychosocial clubs throughout the state, and is designed to provide a community-based environment where formerly hospitalized clients develop confidence, skills, and a sense of community while making the transition from the hospital to the social network.

Jack Davey, Supervisor at the Rehabilitation Services Unit, and director of the Commons, puts its aims succinctly: "Rehabilitation in the least restrictive environment."

The Commons House, on the corner of South and Elmwood, is open daily during the week, and provides a gather-

The cards are meant to be used as "greetings"; but kept as art pieces. Also on display will be various examples of the artist's unique talent for interpreting Victorian techniques into contemporary craft objects of charm and wit.

The display opens February 4 and runs through February 26. Dawson Gallery, 100 Alexander St., is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm.

## Latchkey Conference

With 60% of American mothers with school age children now working, the problem of "latch-key" children is growing. Thousands of office phones ring between 2:30 pm and 4:00 pm, letting mothers know that their children have arrived home from school safely. Thousands of children must spend two to four hours alone in their house, not allowed to play unsupervised with others in or out of their own homes. Thousands of 10 to 12 year olds are in charge of their siblings until their mothers return home.

A coalition of concerned people have joined the United Way of Greater Rochester to discuss this problem. We will be holding a day-long conference on March 25, 1983 at the Jewish Community Center from 9:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Further information will be coming to you in February regarding this Latchkey Conference, but set aside that date to learn how other communities across the country are addressing the problem.

The contact person is Michal McKenzie, who chairs the "Advisory Committee," Office of Child Care Services for the United Way, 30 Clinton Ave., North, Rochester, NY 14604: (716) 232-1330.

ing place for its 70-80 members (many of whom are Wedge or Southeast residents) and a focal point for social and vocational activities and communal interaction. Both Davey, and his assistant director, Clayton Gove, are enthusiastic about the success of the Commons in guiding members into work/social settings where they can develop a network of friends and associates away from the hospital.

The Clothes Closet is a vital component of the psychosocial club, and functions as an important avenue of social integration for former RPC patients. Through their work at the store, which is supervised by Kathy Malta, members acquire vocational skills, (handling cash, pricing, organizing stock, keeping records), and in selling and training new workers, and further expand their distance from the structured environment of the hospital. Perhaps most important of all, work in the shop gives members a growing sense of self-confidence, responsibility, and independence.

Your contributions of clothing and household items and your patronage are most welcome in this community outreach effort. The Clothes Closet is another example of the "acting together" that makes living in the Wedge so special.

The Clothes Closet: 429 South Ave., 232-7530/Hours: M-F 10:30-4:30, Sat. 12-4. Look for Discount Coupon in *The Wedge*.

## The Gregory Street Market

### Delivery Service

Starting Monday, February 14 (Valentines Day) the Gregory Street Market will deliver your groceries right to your doorstep. Every Monday and Thursday between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. deliveries will be made to those who phone in an order of \$20.00 or more. Orders may be placed by calling the Market at 473-3919 between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on the day you wish to have your groceries delivered. There will be a delivery charge of \$2.50.

### Greenback Giveaway

The Gregory Street Market is also pleased to announce its weekly Greenback Giveaway.

With a purchase of \$5.00 or more your name will be entered into our Greenback drawing. A cash prize of \$25.00 will be awarded each Saturday starting February 19, with entries beginning February 12. Winners will be notified by phone at 12:00 noon on the day of the drawing.

Good Luck!

\* \* \* \* \*

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**Editor's Note:** The Oakland Park Neighborhood Association has been negotiating since the autumn with Peter Psyllos, who owns a house on Mt. Hope, part of which is a historical preservation district. The house has been changed, structurally and how it's been used for living space, in recent years without getting the proper approvals from the City's Preservation Board or the Zoning Board of Appeals. Some of the house's former owners made some "unauthorized" changes, and Mr. Psyllos has admitted to making others. Below is much of the recent correspondence related to the negotiations and hearings.

The Oakland Park Neighborhood Association, at a general meeting held on January 19, 1983, discussed and approved the following two communications, both relating to the Peter Psyllos property at 564 Mt. Hope Avenue:

#### 1. TO THE PRESERVATION BOARD

Dear Mr. Burton:

We are herewith transmitting the Oakland Park Neighborhood Association's comments on the exterior changes at 564-566 Mt. Hope Ave. to you for the Preservation Board to consider. These comments were disclosed and approved at a general membership meeting on Wednesday, January 19, 1983.

We found the analysis that you presented at the December 3, 1983 meeting in City Hall very helpful, and we strongly concur with the suggestions you made then.

However, the response from Mr. (Peter) Psyllos, through his lawyer, Mr. (David) Walsh, dated December 20, 1982, challenges a number of those suggestions. Our comments below relate only to the items that we feel are most important.

**The aluminum canopy.** It is totally out of character with the rest of the building, and we agree with your analysis that it should be removed and the wall patched (and painted).

Mr. Psyllos argues that the canopy is needed to prevent basement flooding. However, the flooding is a self-created problem, caused by constructing a depressed area in front of the new basement entrance. Apparently, the drain that was installed is plugged. It could be cleaned, or the walkways could be reconstructed to provide positive drainage from the area.

**Replacement of the wood railings on the front steps and porches.** We strongly agree with your analysis that these were very important elements to the character of the building, and that the existing metal railings should be removed and replaced with wood ones recreating the original design.

Mr. Psyllos's suggestion to put a wood cap on the existing metal railings would further detract from the appearance of the building.

**Replacement of the original entrance doors.** We strongly agree with your analysis that the "Spanish" style door

should be removed and replaced with one befitting the architectural style of the building. It is totally out of character with the house.

Mr. Psyllos' claim that replacement of the door would be cost prohibitive is impossible to believe, given the extensive changes he has made to the building. In addition, there are many other restorative measures that the (City's) Preservation Board could require that it is not requiring. In doing so, it is saving Mr. Psyllos a considerable sum of money.

If Mr. Psyllos does not agree to these measures, we strongly recommend that

#### 2. TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Dear Ms. Collins;

This letter contains the comments of the Oakland Park Neighborhood Association on a zoning variance being sought by Mr. Peter Psyllos for the property at 564-566 Mt. Hope Avenue. The comments were discussed and approved at our general membership meeting on January 19, 1983.

Mr. Psyllos is not asking the Board to allow him to change the use of this property. He has already changed it and

return could not be realized by deconversion.

4. The essential character of the area will be preserved because a "conditional Certificate of Appropriateness has been obtained" and because there is additional parking space at a nearby property owned by Mr. Psyllos.

None of these claims is justified.

The circumstances are not unique. Although the house was damaged by fire in 1965, repairs were made and the house was reoccupied shortly thereafter. In fact, for a time, it was used for four dwelling units, but a request to legalize that use was denied in October, 1970. The house remained occupied through the early seventies. If it was "virtually vacant" at the time of purchase, the vacancy was temporary. Mr. Psyllos knew, or should have known, the condition of the house when he purchased it. If he paid too much, or if the repairs were more expensive than he anticipated, he should not ask the Board of Appeals to help him make good on his mistakes.

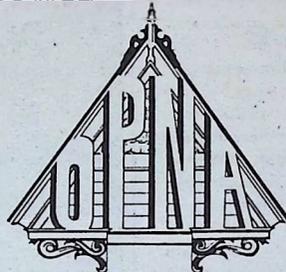
The claim that the house "did not comply with zoning ordinances" at the time of purchase implies that it was used for more than two dwellings, which conflicts with the statement that it was "virtually vacant." In any event, Mr. Psyllos would have found out what would comply if he had made even the slightest attempt to do so.

Much of the \$65,000 capital expenditure that is claimed was incurred because of the illegal conversion, and it should not be considered in justifying a variance, because it was self-created. Also, some of the other expenditures were incurred out of choice and were, therefore, self-created. The new siding on the mansard and on the rear section of the house and the changes in landscaping were unnecessary. Maintenance and repair of the existing materials would have been cheaper and would certainly have been more appropriate to the style of the house.

**The essential character of the area** already has changed, because of both the exterior changes to the house and its use. A Certificate of Appropriateness has not been granted yet, and when it is granted, we are confident it will include a number of changes to mitigate the effect of what has been done. Parking has been a constant problem, until recently. The Linden Street sidewalk was often blocked by cars. It appears that some of the tenants are now parking in the garages behind 548 Mt. Hope Ave., another property owned by Mr. Psyllos. However, we question whether that option will continue to be available. That property could be sold or a tenant could be found for the office space in the basement of the house who would need the adjoining garage space.

Given these circumstances, we strongly recommend that you deny the request for a variance for 564-566 Mt. Hope Avenue.

Sincerely,  
Steve Murphy, Chair  
Zoning Committee



## OPNA NOTES

the Preservation Board deny the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

We are pleased that Mr. Psyllos has agreed to follow your suggestions for the parking area and the porch decking and lattices, and to paint the exposed P.V.C. vent, the mullions on the rear doors, and the concrete steps.

We also have some concerns about the administration of any approval that is granted:

1. It seems to us that a clear revised application, accompanied by appropriate drawings, is necessary in order to be able to enforce the Certificate of Appropriateness, if that becomes necessary.

2. We think it would be wise to make any approval concerning the parking area contingent upon the Zoning Board's approval of a use variance for the property.

3. It would be worthwhile to establish a deadline for completion of the corrections, so that the matter does not drag on indefinitely.

We thank you and the other members of the Preservation Board for the opportunity to participate in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Steve Murphy, Chair  
Zoning Committee

### BULLETIN!!

Regarding the following letter #2 — The Zoning Board of Appeals rejected Peter Psyllos' request for a use variance (permitting four dwelling units) at its January 27 meeting.

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The Board of Directors, and Members of the  
South Wedge Historical Office wish to thank  
Senator John Perry  
for his invaluable assistance in obtaining a  
Three Year Temporary Charter for the  
South Wedge Historical Office.

# SWAT Organizing For 1983

by Deborah Messmer

The officers and membership of South Wedge Acting Together (SWAT) are gearing up for another productive year of neighborhood organization. The formation of several committees, our first step toward meeting the goals and objectives for 1983, has been accomplished, and several committees are seeking individuals who would like to spend time this year helping our neighborhood grow. Below is a listing of the committees and its "chair." Please contact any member of the SWAT Executive Committee or the chair of the individual committee if you'd like to assist.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Pauline Derby, SWAT Secretary, is acting chair of the membership committee. This group has as its major focus the responsibility of inviting neighbors to join SWAT and to encourage past members to renew memberships in the Wedge's neighborhood association. The committee will be looking at the development of possible membership benefits; finding out how SWAT can aid individuals and the neighborhood in general; encouraging more minority involvement in the association. Other committee members are: Lori Wells, Jay Parsons and Richard Walton.

**BUDGET:** This is a short-term committee chaired by SWAT Treasurer Lindy Mathews. Because SWAT has enjoyed successful fundraising events in the past (such as our annual House Tour), the association has raised monies that we feel should be funneled back into the community. This committee will make recommendations to the membership on how these monies (as well as projected income for 1983) should be spent, and will bring the proposed budget to the membership for approval.

**CRIME PREVENTION/COURTWATCH** This committee has no chair, per se, but Art Grimwood, SWAT Vice President, has a longstanding interest in the topic and is interested in working with other individuals who share this concern. Lori Wells is also interested in the topic. One of the goals that this committee will address is the development of an ACT chain (which has been tried in the past and not gotten completely off the ground); continuing our liaison with the Highland Section of the City's Police department; encouraging SWAT members as well as all neighbors to take advantage of home security checks provided by Officer Tom Laird of the Highland Section; developing a youth program who would watch out for street crime and call the Police Department (similar to a program—called Teens Involved Against Crime—already successfully sponsored by Eastside Community Center) and following individuals

who are known to prey on the South Wedge area through the court system.

**ZONING:** Jackie Rifkin-Smith is chairing this committee, which also includes Art Grimwood and Lindy Mathews. Because the enforcement of City codes and ordinances affects all of us, SWAT has found this topic of interest to just about everyone. It is important that neighbors be aware of businesses and individuals who hope to make substantial changes in our neighborhood, as the changes affect the future of our neighborhood. Additionally, in order to preserve and upgrade the character of the Wedge, changes made should be consistent with others being made to assure the orderly growth. Frank Gasparre, City Neighborhood Conservation Officer for our area has agreed to act as a consultant to this committee. The committee keeps track of zoning hearings and requests for variances and reports back to our membership, who vote to support or reject the proposal. This information is communicated to the City at zoning hearings.

**HOUSE TOUR:** SWAT's major yearly fundraiser is its Annual House Tour, normally held in May during "Lilac Week." This year Gloria Monacelli, Ellen Thomas, and Jay Parsons have volunteered to coordinate the Tour. This

is a large undertaking; planning begins in early February and lasts until tour day. It usually takes about 20 people (total) to make the day successful. If you're into publicity, marketing, ticket sales, or any of the usual nitty-gritty work that proceeds an event, get in touch with one of the above people and share the fun of making an interesting, educational and enjoyable day for South Wedge neighbors and visitors from outside the neighborhood.

**HUMAN SERVICES:** A number of us have been working with the City, SEAC, and other agencies to bring to the neighborhood services perceived as needed by our neighbors. Three areas have been identified as being most in need: Elderly, Youth and Handicapped/Disabled. We hope to work with the incoming Community Resource Center and its sponsoring agency to see that needs are met, and that our neighbors have a voice in the administration of any and all programs that are brought to the Wedge.

Finally, ongoing interests include: the development of WEDGE HOUSE through the Historical Office, contributing both time and money to the WEDGE newspaper, and to 'get political' by introducing our now well established association to all levels of government representatives.

## Community Resource Center Becomes Operational April 1

by Deborah Messmer

You may remember having read a few months back in *The WEDGE* that the United Way of Greater Rochester put out a Request For Proposal (RFP) to area human service groups, asking them to submit a proposal for the development of a Community Resource Center in our area.

The CRC will act as a referral agency, linking people in need of services with local agencies who already provide such services, such as counseling, emergency aid, etc.

The United Way sponsored the Southeast Community Center several years ago, and after some study decided that the center was not able to meet the needs of the South East area, and subsequently closed the center. Following the closing, the United Way contracted with the South East Area Coalition (SEAC) to sponsor a "needs assessment study" of the South East area of the City, a process which took two years to gather data and to make recommendations about the needs of our community. The Human Services Planning Committee made several recommendations for community programs, the first of which was the creation of a Community Resource Center (CRC):

"The creation of a CRC is the most important recommendation for the South East-area. An identifiable neighborhood resource, easily accessible, where residents can come and find direction to services, share information, and express concerns is of prime importance in the effective use of existing services. It is the crucial link to maintaining services responsive to the changing needs of the community."

from the HSP Report,  
Major Findings & Recommendations

Three Rochester agencies have submitted RFP's to the United Way, which allocated a maximum of \$50,000 for initial start-up costs for the first year of service, April 1, 1983-March 31, 1984.

The Elderly, Handicapped, Transportation Services, Child Care Services and Youth were areas listed in the RFP that applying agencies should direct programming toward.

Although details are sketchy regarding actual proposals, it is known that the South East Area Coalition, Family Service of Rochester, Inc., and Action for a Better Community (ABC) have responded to the United Way's request, submitting proposals on January 14, 1983.

continued on page 6

## SWAT Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1983  
The GERMAN HOUSE, at 7:30 p.m.

### THE AGENDA

1. A Presentation by Pat Mannix and Maureen Rose about how St. Boniface's Church handles the overflow of homeless people from St. Joseph's
2. Presentation by "The Coalition For Fair Rents"
3. What should be done about the extra "Iris Prints" SWAT purchased from the South Wedge Historical Office
4. Crime Prevention Plans
5. Community Resource Center Presentation and discussion.

### OBJECTIVES OF SOUTH WEDGE ACTING TOGETHER

A. To promote and foster a sense of community among the people in the South Wedge neighborhood, irrespective of political persuasion, race, creed, other badge of human differentiation, while endorsing and nourishing full individual autonomy of all members in all phases of life and the exercise of full personal freedom on all issues.

B. To improve the quality of living and character of the South Wedge neighborhood area.

C. To preserve the unique character and historical qualities of the neighborhood.

D. To create and maintain a channel of communication through which the voice of the neighborhood can be heard by government, by area property and financial interest groups and by the media.

E. To encourage active interest in the neighborhood by area residents, property owners and business people.

F. To create a forum for all interest groups to intercommunicate

G. To foster the growth of neighborhood pride.

H. To bring all neighborhood people together on a social as well as a business level.

Excerpted from SWAT's bylaws

### SWAT'S OFFICERS FOR 1983

President: Deborah Messmer  
38 Hickory St.  
454-1236

Vice President: Art Grimwood  
72 Bond St.  
442-8039

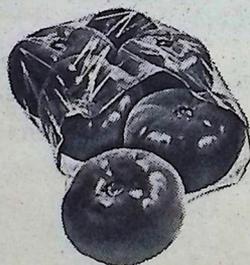
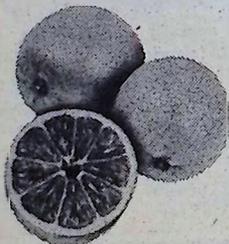
Treasurer: Lindy Mathews  
37 Gregory St.  
473-0326

Secretary: Pauline Derby  
81 Ashland St.  
546-4221

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*Maier's*  
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continued from page 5

## CRC Opening

The United Way will be awarding contracts by March 4, allowing the agency to begin hiring a Program Coordinator and other staff that will be needed.

Although the majority of programs provided by the CRC will be referrals, there most likely will be some on-site programs provided by other Rochester area human services organizations. No site has been chosen as yet for the facility; that will be done by the agency who is awarded the contract. However, the RFP specifies that the Resource Center be located in 'CAM-6', a term that is used by census takers, and which encompasses the South Wedge. The Resource Center "service boundaries"

are: the Inner Loop and Central Business District on the north, Highland Avenue and Westfall Road on the South, Winton Road and East Avenue on the East, and the Genesee River on the West. The total service population is 46,440.

According to Rufus Agnew, allocations director of the United Way of Greater Rochester, "The United Way is still committed to providing services on the South East area of the City. Even though we withdrew funding to the South East Community Center two years ago, the United Way funded the 'needs assessment', the result of which was the recommendation to develop a community Resource Center. The United Way is living up to its promise."



Efforts to save this home at 288 Sanford St. are temporarily stalled.

continued from page 1

## Marie Daley To Be Honored...

seemed to bring back wonderful memories to Marie. She can "still picture the double-decker buses driving up and down Riverside Drive," not far from her highrise apartment.

Marie retired as principal in 1963. Her soon to be meeting-free life, however, was very short-lived. Ms. Daley became president of the South Side Neighbors Association (SSNA) that same year. Out of SSNA grew our South Side Senior Citizens Association, which continues for its 19th year. Marie, with the assistance of co-leader Thelma Treble, has been president of South Side Seniors for nearly two decades. Although Marie graciously gives much of the organizing work credit to Ms. Treble, Thelma feels: "If it wasn't for Marie and her loyal devotion to the group for 19 years, we wouldn't have survived. She has really given to the seniors since her retirement."

Through Marie's hard work, services to area seniors have greatly expanded to include: membership on the Board of Senior Citizen's Action Council, the Board of the Regional Council on Aging, recreational activities, crafts, pot-luck dinners, musical variety shows, bus trips, general fellowship and caring. Marie sees her seniors as her "family," and takes very good care of them. It's not surprising to hear that Marie helps other seniors with grocery shopping, medical treatments and transportation to various affairs and appointments. In addition, and most noteworthy, is her participation with a music group that gives monthly concerts.

Marie has traveled extensively during her lifetime. Trips to Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Canadian Rockies, and Alaska have provided for an exciting, full life and is proof of her stated "love for all people."

Marie sees her work in the Wedge as one that has followed a natural progression, first coming to know the Wedge through its children and then through the South Side Seniors. "The old time residents who take pride in their property and their neighborhood." In 1981-82, Marie was invited to serve on the board of Monroe County People for Parks, a corporation interested in maintaining local parks. When asked if she will ever retire from community work, Marie responds without hesitation: "If you love people, you will always be involved... all ages—children, the middle years, and seniors, help to make my life interesting and fulfilling."

In addition to the work cited above, Marie is a vital member of the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), and has been since its conception in 1976. Marie served diligently in the committee's efforts to gather data about the community through shoppers and housing surveys, which served as a base for subsequent goal setting and direction for SWPC. She has been constant in her attention to zoning matters, and the preservation of the history and flavor of the South Wedge. Not surprisingly, Marie has regularly raised the concerns of seniors and residents for the SWPC's consideration, and has served as a faithful representative of their interests. She has helped to see City-related Community Development Goals, and has been the liaison to the Housing Council in Monroe County on the South Wedge's behalf.

For all of these reasons and many more, the SWPC has chosen to honor one of its best-loved and hard-working members, Marie Daley, at its Annual Meeting on February 17th at the South Ave. Nutrition Site, housed at the South Avenue Baptist Church. Come and share in our recognition of her.

by Josh Canfield

Another delay in "Wedge House" occurred when last minute negotiations broke down between the seller of 288 Sanford, the location of Wedge House, and the South Wedge Historical Office. As a result, the City of Rochester is expected to foreclose on the property.

While this has caused yet another delay in establishing a permanent location for the Historical Office and area-neighborhood groups, it also has not ruled out that the property might not be acquired from the city.

The problem arose when the seller was unable to attain "clear title" to the property and the Historical Office was not willing to pay additional costs associated with acquiring it. At the "11th hour," the seller agreed to an earlier offer-proposal, but the seller was rather late in acting on it.

At this time, an effort, assisted by the Rev. Judy Hay of SWPC, is being made to procure the building from the city.

As reported in last month's issue of *The WEDGE*, the Historical Office will be holding its first General Meeting. The meeting takes place at Cafe Zeppa Del Sud on Tuesday, February 15 at 7:30 pm.

On the agenda are a number of items. They include: election of officers, adoption of by-laws, a summary of goals and accomplishments. The meeting will be followed by a reception.

Members in "good standing" are eligible to attend, and vote. Those who have yet to take advantage of a Historical Office-membership form in the January *WEDGE* should call 325-3762.

And, as usual, those interested in being a part of the Historical Office—whether pasting scrapbooks, photographing the neighborhood or collecting pertinent data—should call the above number.

## Tasteful Grocery Opens On South Ave.

by Jay Parsons

The round, glass signs look turn-of-the-century, perhaps 1910. They read: "South Avenue Grocers-Purveyers of Fine Foods." The wood-framed windows reveal plants, a small orange tree, some copies of *Gourmet* magazine, colorful cookbooks (including *The Enchanted Broccoli Forest*). Beyond one sees brick walls, paintings, and a panoply of colors, herbs, spices, fruits, vegetables: Inside—the South Wedge's newest business. A grocery store, and then some: a treat for the eye, the palate and the pocket book.

From its gleaming oak floors to its high, tin ceiling, from the natural wood shelves to the large spice canisters behind the counter, South Avenue Grocers seems decades removed from the chrome and plastic of *Weggies* or *Star*.

But just because the store is so tasteful, so warm, colorful, and charming, don't mistake it for yet another trendy gourmet boutique. No, this is a *grocery* store—a real live grocery store with fresh fruits and vegetables, cheeses, eggs and dairy products, fresh baked bread, and lots of wholesome natural foods—grains, dried nuts and fruit, rice, honey, bulk pasta, juices and specially tinned goods.

Fresh coffee is brewing; tempting pastries beckon on the counter, and a selection of choice reading material—*The NY Times*, *The Village Voice*, *City*, and of course *The Wedge* is available.

Partners Gloria & Peter Monacelli and Hannelori & Gary Updyke opened their tasteful store on Jan. 15, and since then have been greeting old and new friends with a dazzling array of choice foods, carefully selected produce (direct from the Public Market) and warm South Wedge neighborliness.

If you're bummed out by super-market oversell and beeping computerized checkouts (and who isn't?) a visit to South Avenue Grocers will put some joy back in your food shopping. We should warn you, though; it's definitely habit forming!

South Avenue Grocers, 651 South Avenue/Tues-Fri 12-7, Sat & Sun 10-5. Closed Monday.

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# City's Homeless Find Emergency Quarters at St. Boniface



St. Boniface Church on Gregory

by Roger Gorman

A haven for the homeless, you say? Right here in the middle of the South Wedge, and, of all places, at St. Boniface Church?

It probably wouldn't have gone over 10, 20 years ago for fear of "bums" of "tramps" "infesting" the neighborhood, but what with today's economic pressures, unemployment and the apparent inability of the government to come up with funds needed to feed and house literally thousands of homeless in our cities, it looks as if it's up to people, people like you, to take care of our brothers and sisters.

In November '82, Bishop Matthew Clark, of the Rochester Catholic Diocese, was made aware of the problem facing the homeless. He learned that upwards of 500 persons in Rochester probably would be on the streets—with no places to sleep. Several estimates were supplied by social agencies: the Salvation Army, Men's Service Center, and places that have fed and housed needy persons.

Within a week or so, the Bishop sent letters to the pastors of inner-city Catholic churches, advising them of the upcoming situation, and asked them to look for ways the churches and parishes could aid homeless people.

Coordinating the Bishop's appeal an subsequent efforts, was the Diocesan Office of Peace and Justice, with Patricia Mannix taking the "difficult" task of getting the ball rolling.

And indeed, the proverbial ball rolled.

Word spread throughout the community that Corpus Christi Church, on East Main St., was interested, and, had already begun plans to accommodate people who came knocking on its doors—looking for a place to sleep for the night.

At St. Boniface, an active Human Development Committee headed by Dave Foley, rushed through approval for such a program, and sent it to Parish Council. Council approved the proposal the first part of December.

But, who would head or coordinate the project at the Gregory Street facility? Who would be willing to give up time to seek out volunteers?

Council members, Pastor Winfried Kellner and others approached 32-year-old Dick Leslie, a resident of nearby Mulberry Street, who's also an engineer-

ing supervisor for General Railway Signal Co., a unit of General Signal Corp.

Leslie, the father of two small children, brought in Maureen Rose to assist him. Ms. Rose, a resident of the 19th Ward is a social worker in Strong Memorial Hospital's Oncology Dept. Leslie knew Ms. Rose as a dedicated social worker, and was not hesitant to ask her for help.

"She had a good background in social work. I was positive she could help coordinate the program at Boniface in a short time. Time was pressing us. It was getting colder nightly, and I knew Maureen wouldn't let us down," Leslie said.

In terms of background, Leslie said that one evening he was watching TV and his doorbell rang. It was Joe Gagne, president of the St. Boniface Parish Council. "I wouldn't be here on a Sunday afternoon unless it was of a critical nature," Gagne said to Leslie. "We're looking for someone to head up a new program at Boniface, and we feel you're the person who can do it."

Leslie was surprised. No one had ever asked him to volunteer for anything, but "when I learned what Joe wanted me to do, I simply couldn't say no," Leslie said.

Leslie said he agreed with President Reagan's administrative directive that "we go to the private sector, in many instances, rather than the public sector, to help solve our social problems. "Here was my chance to help that cause along. I always had been an advocate of "getting Big Government, Big Bureaucracy off our backs."

"Where do we come up with cots, blankets, a suitable room for the needy?" Leslie said.

"The Office of Peace and Justice supplied six cots. They gave us 12 blankets, too. The church opened its All Purpose Room in the basement.

"At first, we agreed to be open only on Friday nights—from 10 pm to 7:30 am. Most men came from St. Joseph's Hospitality House, on South Avenue; other referrals came from the Salvation Army.

"But Fridays didn't, in the beginning, seem to see many of the homeless men in need of a place to sleep St. Boniface.

"So, we decided to add Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with the possibility

of supplementing nights that St. Bridget's was closed its homeless haven setup.

"Tuesday and Thursday nights have proved to be a good move on our part. These nights have resulted in a full house—six men—in our All Purpose Room."

Volunteers must stay a portion of the 10-hour stint, about five hours. The person is asked to help set up the room. This means making the beds, sandwiches, fruit and coffee. Other volunteers do the laundry (the blankets and sheets) after every evening session.

Did you have a difficult time acquiring volunteers? Leslie was asked.

"No. Believe it or not, in early January 19 persons showed up for a Monday night orientation. Today, we have at least 45 volunteers to sit up with the needy men, all night." So far, the program has served 25 needy men.

"Volunteers have offered their services from as far away as Henrietta (Good Shepherd Church), but it is extremely gratifying to say that many

volunteers, the early volunteers, approached us from the South Wedge! Leslie said."

For example, a young man, George Finegan, of Linden St., walked into St. Joseph's, asking if he could help. Finegan was referred to Leslie and he worked Friday night, Jan. 21.

"The response to the program has been terrific," Leslie said. "But, the program is again approaching cold, winter and we cannot let the initial success dwindle.

"We never want to become complacent. We never want to think we have this crisis licked. The Christian spirit has prevailed in this neighborhood, thanks to the unselfish efforts of scores of people."

"But if I can say anything about this community, I'd say this," Leslie concluded: "The satisfaction to me, to our volunteers, to our good people is the fact we have a good chance of not reading a headline in the morning newspaper that might say—

"Migrant, 65, Found Frozen to Death on City Street."

## Housing Report & Rent Survey Released

by Jay Parsons

The City of Rochester's Department of Community Development has released its 1982 Housing Report and Rent Survey. Reports generated by the bureaucracy tend to be long on numbers, heavy on jargon, and light in content. But while these reports have their expected data overkill, they are far from lightweight in their importance.

Given the rehab activity in the Wedge, and with the prospect of reassessment only weeks away, accurate information about housing, rents, and vacancies is of more than passing interest.

Of the nearly \$26 million expended by the city in its housing rehab assistance programs, over \$400,000 has been utilized in the Wedge, and in the period 1978-1982, over \$2 million in combined public and private monies have been invested in South Wedge property improvement. This is the largest amount of money devoted to rehab in any of the 91 census tracts comprising the City of Rochester.

The Housing and Rent study divides the city into four quadrants—Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast. Of the four, the Southeast has, by far, the highest rents, with a range of \$230-545 for two-bedroom units. This figure marks a whopping 40% increase in the two years between 1980 and 1982.

This enormous rent increase is coupled with a rapidly shrinking housing base. Of a total of 637 rental units in the Southeast quadrant, only 35 were vacant, according to the report. Our own check of recent Sunday D&C listings reveals a mere eight apartments for rent in the South Wedge.

Given the scarcity of rental units, it is noteworthy that, since 1978, the city has maintained a policy of supporting no new units of subsidized housing. Data from the 1960 and 1970 census led to the conclusion that there was no need for subsidized housing. Current figures however, point to a critically diminished housing base, and indeed, a serious housing shortage for the elderly. As these City housing reports indicate, the time is fast approaching when housing priorities need to be reevaluated.

continued from page 1

### McKinzie

century clipper shop. Ms. McKinzie envisions a multi-bedroomed apartment with a loft, formal dining area, and woodburning stove. Its large, bright windows are set off by warm brick walls.

All the units are blessed with exposed brick, and set for installation of woodburning stoves. The apartments and office space will be accessible from a gated, brick alleyway, graced with delicate wrought-iron lamps and a warm '19 Century New Orleans feel.

Our 1930 photo shows brick fencing and an intricate mansard roof, with detailed gutter and window frames.

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RCP Players Karen Strong, who plays Lily Prine-Berniers, and Richard Walton, who plays Henry Simpson in "Toys In The Attic"

## 'Toys In Attic' Opens Feb. 4 at RCP

The time is 1930. It is a hot, summer day in New Orleans when secrets are revealed, and when toys aren't necessarily something to play with—or are they?

You won't want to miss this tightly woven play about dreams and love... about revelations and destruction. You won't want to miss "TOYS IN THE ATTIC," a classic drama about people.

### THE PLAYERS

The Berniers: IZELLA SMITH as Anna; WENDY BISHOP as Carrie; and JEFFREY MAXON as Julian.

The Prines: JOAN VAWTER as Albertine; and KAREN STRONG as Lily Prine Berniers.

With RICHARD WALTON as Henry Simpson; ERNEST SLATER as Gus; and DANIEL GOODWIN as the Taxi Driver.

TOM VAWTER is the play's Director Set Designer; VICKI DUVAL is Costume Designer, and ART

WHITFIELD is Light-Designer.

KATE SHANNON reappears as Stage Manager, and DAN O'DONNELL is the Technical Director (as well as playing a walk-on part in the show).

With BETH COLLINS managing props, TIM FUSS at the light board, and JEFFREY BARHITE designing period hair styles.

### PERFORMANCE DATES & PRICES

February 3—Preview, \$4.50

February 4—Opening, \$6.00

February 5, 10, 11, 12—\$6.00

February 6, 13—Matinees, \$5.00

8:00 pm on Thursday and Fridays,

5:00 & 9:00 pm on Saturdays,

3:00 pm on Sundays.

At the RCP Playhouse, 820 Clinton Ave S  
Corner of South Clinton and Meigs St.!

Box Office opens for reservations  
Call 473-7550 1-5 pm Monday-Friday,  
or one hour prior to performance.

## South Wedge To Be Part Of 150th Birthday Party

by Josh Canfield

In 1984, Rochester will be celebrating its 150th Birthday with a full-year of "special" exhibits, public parties, dedications and various activities, calling national attention to the contributions many residents have made to our fair city.

Many existing events will be expanded, along with several new programs... one of which will be entitled "Neighborhood Events."

Neighborhood leaders were queried several months ago, and asked to appoint representatives who would serve on a birthday sub-committee. One of the tasks of the sub-committee is determining neighborhood participation on the celebration.

Leaders in the South Wedge—neighborhood association presidents, school principals, business leaders, pastors et al—will be meeting in the near future to draft proposals, expressing the dates and events that South Wedge residents are likely to sponsor.

Some suggestions that have been mentioned thus far include: a "trolley"

that would circle the Wedge (similar to the one that formerly travelled South-town Plaza); a "\$1.50-sale" by area merchants; hanging flower baskets that would dangle from the light poles located on Mt. Hope, South and Clinton Avenues; (the Flower City-theme); expanding the bunting-theme that many area-merchants displayed during last year's Lilac Festival; dedication of a newly expected landscaped Gregory (and South Ave.) triangle; "150 year old houses" featured in SWAT's Annual House Tour; a "travelling display that might include photographs and artifacts from the Historical Office and, finally, publishing "An Introduction to the South Wedge."

Karen Shea, the South Wedge representative (who is a member of the Oakland Park Neighborhood Association) has recently asked that each and every area resident and investor should make suggestions how the neighborhood might partake in the celebration.

Ideas that come to mind can be passed on through respective neighborhood associations, or call 473-8212 or 325-3742.

## February's Black History Month... Dream and Celebration

EDITOR'S NOTE:  
*February is Black History Month. We couldn't think of anything more appropriate than printing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous '60s "I Have A Dream" speech. He made the historic speech, of course, during the tumultuous time when the civil rights movement was just in its infancy.*

### I HAVE A DREAM

I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be engulfed, every hill shall be exalted and every mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I will go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope.

## Activities For Black History Month

The First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc., announces its celebration of *Black History Month* during February, 1983. The Institute will sponsor and coordinate many events, programs and activities throughout the month.

The person responsible for *Black History Month* is the late black historian, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson. Dr. Woodson, graduate of Harvard University, organized the "Association For The Study Of Negro Life and History" in 1915, and in 1916 published the "Journal Of Negro History", a scholarly report of research. He initiated the observance of *Negro History Week* in 1926. The First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc., feels it is its duty and obligation to carry on the tradition started fifty-six years ago.

The public is welcome to share with us this important tradition. *Black History Month* is important to people the world over. We, of African descent, encourage people of all races, creeds and nationalities to learn about the *historical contributions* made by our ancestors,

With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to climb up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims pride. From ev'ry mountain-side. Let freedom ring.

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York.

Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.

Let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado.

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that let freedom ring from the Stone Mountain of Georgia.

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee.

Let freedom ring from every hill and mole hill of Mississippi and every mountainside.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, Free at last, free at last! Thank God Almighty we are free at last.

and the *social/political creativity* manifested by our struggle for human dignity and respect.

First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc., is a spiritual and cultural organization that promotes the development of Afro-American people. Attached is a partial schedule of activities for February.

Location: First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc. 219 Hamilton Street

Friday, Feb. 4, 1983—5:30 pm  
SOUL CLOWN MEETS HISTORY  
Kiddie Party Donation: \$1.00  
Refreshments will be served

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1983—4:00 pm  
BLACK HISTORY VS.  
NEGRO HISTORY

Lecture presented by:  
Minister Lawrence L. Evans

Wednesday, Feb. 9, 1983—8:00 pm  
CULTURE AND MAGIC

Lecture presented by:  
Minister Lawrence L. Evans

Sunday, Feb. 13, 1983—4:00 pm  
HISTORY AND PROPHECY

Lecture presented by:  
Minister Lawrence L. Evans

Friday, Feb. 18, 1983—5:30 pm  
CHILDREN SPEAK ON HISTORY  
Children's Program

Sunday, Feb. 20, 1983—4:00 pm  
FOLKSONGS AND FOLKTALES  
Musical Program

Sunday, Feb. 27, 1983—4:00 pm  
COOKING EXOTIC FOOD  
Workshop\*\*\*

All events *except* the workshop on "Cooking Exotic Food" on February 27, 1983 will be held at First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc. 219 Hamilton Street.

\*\*\*The location for the workshop on February 27, 1983 will be announced.

For more information contact the Institute at (716) 275-0379.

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs cordially invites you to celebrate the 163rd birthday of our founder, Susan B. Anthony. It is also the 85th anniversary of the Federation. The annual community luncheon will be held on Feb. 15th at noon in the Windsor/Tiffany room at the Genesee Plaza/Holiday Inn, 120 East Main Street, Rochester, N.Y. Our guest speaker will be Rosalie C. Hanson, the Executive Director of the Rochester Sesquicentennial, Inc. in 1984.

Please make reservations before Feb. 7th. Chairperson: Margaret Seward (482-2697); Co-Chairman: Ann Fertig (425-2561); Martina Zegarski (663-3688).

Hostess Clubs: Beta Sigma Phi Council, Women's Club of Rochester, Susan B. Anthony Republican Club, Catholic Women's Club of Rochester, Monroe County Legion Auxiliary, Roosevelt Women's Democratic Club of Irondequoit.

# WEDGE-WATCHING

## Programs For Seniors

by Marie Daly

South Side Seniors would like to invite area seniors, and retirees men and women, to join the seniors in their fellowship meetings. The meetings take place on Thursdays from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the South Avenue Baptist Church. The church is located at the corners of South Ave. and Linden St.

South Side Seniors do not require membership dues. The patrons of the church do make contributions so that some low-expenses items are provided. The people who do decide to join the seniors should bring their own food-stuffs: sandwiches, coffee, tea. A serving committee will prepare the items for everyone, as well as serve people.

The activities that the seniors enjoy consist of handcrafts, games, card playing and music. There's also a senior music group that is invited to perform for other senior groups monthly.

The weekly meetings also advise the seniors where other activities are held, such as: neighborhood festivals, special events and related concerts. The seniors also enjoy the Musical Moments, Travelogues, Trips, summer picnics by Lake Ontario and Fun Time Together. Join the South Side Seniors Group by calling Marie Daly.

## Lorraine Smith As H.B. Stowe

by Marie Daley

Lorraine Smith, a retired social worker, has compiled an exciting drama that brings history alive, and is available for specific groups upon request.

In a one-woman presentation, Ms. Smith has made Harriet Beecher Stowe and Harriet Tubman, become almost living personalities at a recent performance for South Side Seniors.

As the author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Harriet Beecher Stowe had a powerful influence upon the history of our country. The novel aroused people in the north against the evils of slavery. This novel was one of the forces which undoubtedly helped to bring about the Civil War.

Harriet Tubman, a southern black, dedicated her life, as did many other blacks, to the fight for freedom. With courage and determination, Ms. Tubman made an estimated 19 trips below the Mason-Dixon Line to help win the freedom of 300 people.

South Side Seniors were recently fascinated by Ms. Smith's adaptation of both authors' works. South Side Seniors would recommend that other groups invite Ms. Smith for their enjoyment.

(Ms. Lorraine M. Smith, 15 Farrington Place, Rochester, 14620. (716) 473-4641.

## Summer Jobs For Youths

Rochester Jobs, Inc. (RJI), is a non-profit organization that has 16-year track record of developing and administering employment and training programs. This year, for the third summer, RJI will be administering private sector summer youth employment programs. The Private Sector Shared Employment (PSSE) program offers incentives to employers and youths.

• RJI will reimburse one half of the wages and fringe for eligible youth hired.

• RJI provides the options of putting the youths on their payrolls, billing

employers monthly or reimbursing employers for wages paid.

• Many of RJI's youth are Targeted Jobs Tax Credit eligible. If an employer retains youths after the conclusion of the programs, they may be able to take advantage of tax credits.

• Participating youths are screened prior to referrals and given pre-employment orientation training to address the attitudes and motivation.

• During summers all youths are required to attend weekly Job Survival Skills Workshop.

• RJI will monitor youths and assist with problems.

• RJI can identify 16 and 17 year olds who are eligible for 85% tax credits.

• RJI has information about other programs available in the community.

Planning for the summer of 1983 has begun. This year, neighborhoods have the unique opportunity to help local businesses hire neighborhood youths. The thrust this year is to establish relationships within the neighborhoods with business, community and youth groups to identify and match jobs and job-ready youths. Clearly there are benefits to this type of program. For more information, call Mary Wells at Rochester Jobs, Inc.; 232-2600.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**MUSIC FOR YOU!** Piano and voice lessons. Eastman School of Music graduate. Opening a studio in the Wedge. For info, call Laurie: 262-2216.

**PIANO TUNING:** Quality service, reasonable rates by experienced musician, in the South Wedge. Call 473-4297.

## South Ave. Rec Center Programs

The South Ave. Recreation Center still has openings in their "Children's Fun Program," which meets on Tuesdays from 12:45 pm to 2:15 pm. The fee, \$5.00 per month, per child; ages three to five. If a minimum registration is not reached, the program will be cancelled.

"I Can Do It" begins Tuesday, February 1. The class runs from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm for a ten-week duration for boys and girls, ages six to nine. This class is limited to 15 per class.

"Rollerskating: Fridays, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm for all ages. Families are encouraged to attend, and everyone must bring their own skates.

"Dance Instruction": the next six-week sessions for ballet and jazz begin February 23: ages three and four, Wednesdays, from 6:30 pm to 4:15 pm and the fee is \$6.75; ages five to seven, Wednesdays, from 4:15 pm to 5:00 pm. Classes for eight and over will begin on March 7, and run for six-weeks. The classes meet on Mondays, from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm; fees for the sessions are \$13.50.

Youngsters are advised to register one week before classes begin. All classes must meet a minimum class size.

For further information on these and other programs, call the center at 461-4790 after 3:00 pm. Or, stop by the South Avenue Recreation Center, which begins after school, at 999 South Ave. (behind School #12).

Don't forget "Winterfest '83" at Cobbs Hill Park on Saturday, February 5, and Sunday, February 6... Activities, entertainment and fun for all ages. Hope to see you there.

## Architectural Assistance For Small Businesses

The Southeast Area Coalition (SEAC) has announced that an architectural assistance program is available for businesses located on South Clinton Ave. SEAC will provide the services of a registered architect with experience in commercial design to consult with owners, make sketches, and estimate costs, and develop improvement plans.

The charges to the businesses will be approximately \$200, the balance (about 75%) will be paid by SEAC through its neighborhood preservation program.

The cost may be higher for buildings with special complexities, or facades greater than 40-ft. For more information, call 244-7405.

## Assistance Programs For Small Businesses

by Art Grimwood

The City of Rochester sponsors several programs which provide technical and financial assistance to eligible small businesses for property rehabilitations. Small businesses are broadly defined as having incomes of less than one million dollars for the prior year, and has not more than three outlets. Applicants must either own the property or be in possession of three year leases—and the owner's permission to apply for the assistance.

50/50 Commercial Subsidy Programs provide matching funds up to threshold of \$10,000 for building related repairs and renovations. Half the funds must be used for exterior repairs. Projects "in progress" or ones completed are not eligible.

Some applicants may qualify for grants up to \$3,000. Eligibility for these programs are determined by the applicant's personal income. The minimum project is \$1,000.

Of particular interest to businesses in the South Wedge are the Major Commercial Subsidy Programs (MCSP). About 30 streets citywide are potentially eligible. Three streets in the Wedge qualify.

MCSP provides 50% matching subsidies for improvements to building facades up to \$10,000 and 25% matching subsidies up to \$30,000 for improvements to entire buildings, excluding interiors of residential units. The improvements can include cosmetic and structural changes, building expansion, landscaping and parking lot improvements, but exclude new constructions. The minimum project cost is \$5,000 and projects costing over \$10,000 require architectural approvals (the city also has an Architectural Assistance program). Applicants must meet the above definition of a small business, and there no income guidelines for MCSP's.

Both of these programs are administered by the Department of Community Development, Bureau of Development Services. For information on these and related commercial properties call 428-6894 or 428-6886.

Another service which should be of interest to most small businesses is the energy audit provided by the City and Monroe County Cooperative Extension. This is a free service which analyzes individual situations and provides expert advice on energy saving techniques from the simple to the exotic. To schedule a free audit, call Ron Gaudreau at 428-6806.

## Crime Report

This report is included in each issue of *The Wedge* to inform neighbors of the types of unpleasant incidences reported to the Highland Section of the RPD. Please be aware of unusual happenings, guard your home and self against them, and report any incidence to the police.

Dec. 29 Gregory St: windows broken with BB-gun.

Jan. 1 Mt. Hope Ave: person assaulted.

Jan. 1 South Ave: person assaulted.  
Jan. 1 Byron St: attempted rape after victim was assaulted.

Jan. /Mt. Hope: front door damaged.

Jan. 2 Averill Ave: sexual abuse  
Jan. 2 Bond St: person assaulted.

Jan. 3 Mt. Hope Ave: cigarette machine damaged.

Jan. 3 Mt. Hope Ave: person assaulted.

Jan. 3 Sanford St: window broken.  
Jan. 4 Mt. Hope Ave: food stolen from kitchen.

Jan. 4 Cypress St: chair cushions and bike stolen from garage.

Jan. 4 Major Pkwy: cash, jewelry, credit cards, bank book, camera, keys and ID taken.

Jan. 5 Mt. Hope Ave: care entered, mirror broken and dashboard damaged; two speakers taken.

Jan. 6 Mt. Hope Ave: burglar entered window, took 19" color TV.

Jan. 7 Hickory St: 12 trash cans taken from yard.

Jan. 7 South Ave: bike taken from hallway of apartment building.

Jan. 7 South Ave: bike stolen from sidewalk.

Jan. 8 Mt. Hope Ave: car window broken; taken were a coat and cassette player.

Jan. 8 Cypress St: car taillight broken.

Jan. 9 Hickory St: an unidentified person entered a garage with a rifle; nothing was reported missing.

Jan. 9 Gregory St: dog stolen, or missing, from yard.

Jan. 10 Alexander St: two windows broken.

Jan. 11 Meigs St: out of state resident arrested for being in possession of stolen property.

Jan. 11 Poplar St: auto battery damaged on parked car.

Jan. 12 Mt. Hope Ave: person assaulted.

Jan. 14 Nicholson St.: window entered of parked car; stereo cassette and two speakers taken.

Jan. 14 Bellvue Dr: credit card and cash taken from patient in hospital.

Jan. 11 Comfort St: person assaulted with pipe.

Jan. 11 South Ave: hubcaps removed from parked car.

Jan. 12 Mt. Hope Ave: suspect arrested from being in possession of two stolen checks.

Jan. 12 Ashland St: gloves, hat and keys taken from coat.

Jan. 13 Mt. Hope Ave: window broken, auto entered; briefcase taken.

Jan. 14 Gregory St: UPS item taken from front porch after it was delivered.

Jan. 15 Bond St: two concrete blocks stolen.

Jan. 15 Alexander St: two windows broken by unknown person.

Jan. 16 Mt. Hope Ave: car damaged.

Jan. 16 Mt. Hope Ave: car window broken, cassette player and tapes taken.

Jan. 16 Mt. Hope Ave: person enters store with shotgun and tries to rob store owner and customers.

# SOUTH WEDGE TOOL LIBRARY

## Rehab Monies Still Available

by Louis Richards

Each month, the South Wedge Tool Library tries to present a column which residents in our community will find helpful and informative. Oftentimes, this column addresses subjects which are presented in greater detail during the month's WORKSHOP. However, as the February WORKSHOPS-conducted each Saturday morning by Clem Bayer—will span a wide variety of common household problems, I have elected to devote this column to area residents who are beginning to consider how and when they are going to rehab their old house. More specifically, I'd like to answer the question: "How can I afford the cost of rehabbing?"

To begin with, it may not necessarily be as expensive as you think. The funds which you have available may be used in conjunction with Grants and Low-Interest Loans, through the City of Rochester, and local lending institutions. It is also very important to remember that all those things that need to be accomplished do *not* have to be done at the same time. Upgrading property to its full potential may seem like an awesome task, but if you sit down and go over the details you might discover that your goals can be reached through a series of well planned phases.

Rehab programs are usually classified into two general groups: (1) Moderate Rehabilitation, 0-\$5000; and Major Rehabilitation, in excess of \$5000. Moderate level programs include HILP Grants and Loans, Investor Owner Grants and Subsidies, Residential Mini-Grants, Special Material Grants and Energy Conservation Subsidies. Major levels include Architectural Assistance, Major Rehab Incentive Grants and Mortgage Investment Programs.

Additionally, there are a variety of general programs such as Aged Assessment, Energy Audits, Tax Credit for Energy Conservation, and Tax Credit for City Taxes. As you can see, from such a wide range of programs there is always a program to suit your needs.

Consider what programs are available through the City's Department of Community Development. Probably the best known programs are the HILP Grant and HILP Loans. These are available to low and moderate income people, respectively. The HILP Grant provides up to \$4500 to low-income owner-occupants for home repairs, especially for dangerous conditions. This Grant is available city-wide under the following qualifying conditions:

1. You must own and live in the property.
2. You must own the property for at least one year.
3. You cannot be more than one month behind in mortgage payments, or more than one quarter behind in City Taxes (however, a Grant can be processed with a tax agreement).
4. The property cannot contain more than four units.
5. You cannot have more than \$10,000 in savings, cash, stocks or bonds.
6. You must meet prescribed income guidelines.

There is also a HILP Grant Supplement available in the South Wedge for residents who own property in the Focus Area (north of Sanford St., generally). This program has an additional \$1500 disposable for people whose income warrants it.

Property that was rehabbed before you bought it may still be eligible for the

HILP Grant Modification, under the following guidelines:

1. The property must be owned by a new owner.
2. The owner must live in the property one year.
3. The property must not have been rehabbed within the last five years.
4. Improvements are limited to energy or exterior related items.
5. A lien will be placed against the property so that if it is sold within the first year after rehab the total grant must be repaid. If sold the second year, 50% of the grant must be returned.
6. All other guidelines for HILP Grants apply to this modification.

HILP Loans are available city-wide to moderate income people. They consist of a subsidies equal to 35% of the cost of home improvements. The subsidies can range from \$350 for a minimum home improvement package of \$1000, to \$1750 for a home improvement package of \$5000. Any permanent improvement is eligible. To qualify, you must meet these guidelines:

1. The property must be within the City limits.
2. You must own and occupy the property.
3. Your income must meet guidelines specifications.

The cost of home improvements not covered by HILP may be financed with loans from banks, savings or loan firms, or credit unions. HILP Loans are available through most local lending institutions, which are also responsible for processing your application.

For those interested in acquiring vacant structures, Major Rehabilitation Incentive Grant programs are available city-wide. The subsidy is equal to 50% of the cost of rehabbing. The guidelines are as follows:

1. The estimated cost of rehabbing must exceed the market value by at least 30%, but not more than 200%.
2. The program is available for 1-4 unit structures.
3. The maximum subsidy available is \$10,000 per dwelling unit. The subsidy cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of rehabbing.
5. The property must be vacant for at least one year prior to rehabbing.
6. Property owners will be required to obtain three independent cost estimates, and retain an architect (you may participate in the Architectural Assistance Program, listed below).

Architectural Assistance is available for people participating in the Major Rehabilitation Incentive Grant. Seventy-Five percent of the cost of architectural services are paid by the City.

Though all the programs discussed thus far are residential structures, the City also sponsors 50/50 Commercial Subsidy Programs. These programs provide up to \$10,000 per (eligible) applicant in matching funds invested by the owner. There are also grants to \$3000 to qualified applicants who cannot afford additional bank loans, or who do not have extra capital to invest. The minimum project is \$1000.

Complete information on the 50/50 Commercial Subsidy Program is available from the Bureau of Development Sciences, Public Safety Bldg. or by calling: 428-6891.

Information concerning HILP Grants and Loans and other programs included in this column may be found in Community Development booklets entitled Housing Rehabilitation Programs. The booklets are currently available at the South Wedge Tool Library, 697 South Avenue.

## Tool Library Workshops

During the month of February, the Tool Library will present a WORKSHOP each Saturday morning at 10 am. These WORKSHOPS will be conducted by Clem Bayer, of the Monroe County Cooperative Extension.

Mr. Bayer will present one workshop on some aspect of "Simple Home Repairs." The series, presented very successfully throughout the Greater Rochester Area, is designed to familiarize people with common repairs such as replacing broken window panes, fixing leaky faucets and minor electrical repairs.

All presentations include "hands-on" workshops that acquaint the attendees with prepared materials.

The workshops are free and open to the public. Plan to attend Saturday mornings at 10 am.

"Simple Home Repairs"  
conducted by Clem Bayer

Saturdays at 10AM

FEB. 5: Screen Repair, Glass Replacement & Wallpapering

FEB. 12: Insulation, Drywall & Panelling

FEB. 19: Small Electrical Repairs

FEB. 26: Small Plumbing Repairs

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

South Wedge Tool Library  
697 South Avenue

## Q/A

Reprinted material will occasionally be presented, as space allows, in the hope of answering frequently raised questions at the Tool Library.

**Q:** In our 1856 house, the floors are under the area rugs installed by the previous owner are lighter than the rest of the floor. Are there safe ways to remove old wax from the floors without damaging the patina?

**A:** All floors which are waxed need to be periodically stripped of old wax and dirt before rewaxing. Use any commercial wax remover, as long as it is specified for use on wood floors—not tile or linoleum (see "The Old-House Journal," Vol. IX No. 11.)

**Q:** One room in our house will be refloored with random-width, yellow pine flooring. What can we use on the floor to give it a used look? We are hoping to have the patina of an old floor immediately, rather than wait for the lumber to age.

**A:** How to deal with floors depends on what's used for a final finishes. Try various choices on small pieces until you arrive at a color and finish that satisfies you that blends with the other floors of the house. You may want to tone down the floor colors with a light stain before the final finishes to prevent "the shock of the new." Beware of going too far.

Almost all finishes, especially on floors, darken with age, and use. You may soon find your new floors standing dark and dingy against the old. We recommend against any attempt to fake or artificially "distress" elements of houses. Be patient and let time and use to the work for you. "The Old-House Journal," Vol. X No. 2.

## Heat Guns On Order

In an eleventh hour bid package, proposed to deplete the balance of our acquisition monies, the South Wedge Tool Library has ordered four MASTER heavy-duty heat guns.

These tools have been requested by members who have been involved in removing paint from interior woodwork and trim. Specifically, heat guns are ideal for stripping paint from interior woodwork where a clear finish is going to be applied, such as doors, wainscoting, baseboards, columns, shutters and paneling. Additionally, they can be used to thaw frozen pipes, loosen synthetic resin linoleum paste and soften putty while replacing window glass.

If these projects are planned in the future, stop by the Tool Library to discover how easily these chores can be done!

## Free Door Sweeps Available

As a convenience to area residents, the South Wedge Energy Project has made available additional door sweeps to people who have not yet received them. Over 200 have been distributed through the Tool Library on a first come, first serve basis. These door sweeps, which retail for about \$5.00, are FREE to South Wedge residents. Pick up yours at the Tool Library during regular office hours.

South Wedge Tool Library

HOURS

Tues. & Thurs.	6 pm-9 pm
Wed. & Fri.	12 pm-3 pm
Saturdays	9 am-3 pm

For Information: 442-9868  
697 South Avenue

## City/Tool Library Contract Expires

The month of February marks the expiration of the contract between the City and the South Wedge Planning Committee governing the operation of the South Wedge Tool Library.

From this point on, all operations and financial responsibility rests with the Planning Committee and, the residents of the South Wedge. Though major operational expenses will be paid through the Neighborhood Preservation Program (NPP) grant, new tool purchases and maintenance on existing tools must come from membership fees and fund raising.

The Tool Library has operated for two years with membership fees of \$3.00 per year. This is the lowest membership rate of any tool library citywide. Unfortunately, increased expenses and the additional cost of tools necessitates an increase in our membership fee. The proposed new fee will be \$5.00 per household; \$3.00 for senior citizens.

To ease the burden of member registration, we propose to name the month of April as Annual Membership Month. Yearly memberships will run from April to April, similar to hunting and fishing licenses. In fairness to recent members and renewals, people who have paid their dues after December, 1982, will be exempt from this year's membership drive.

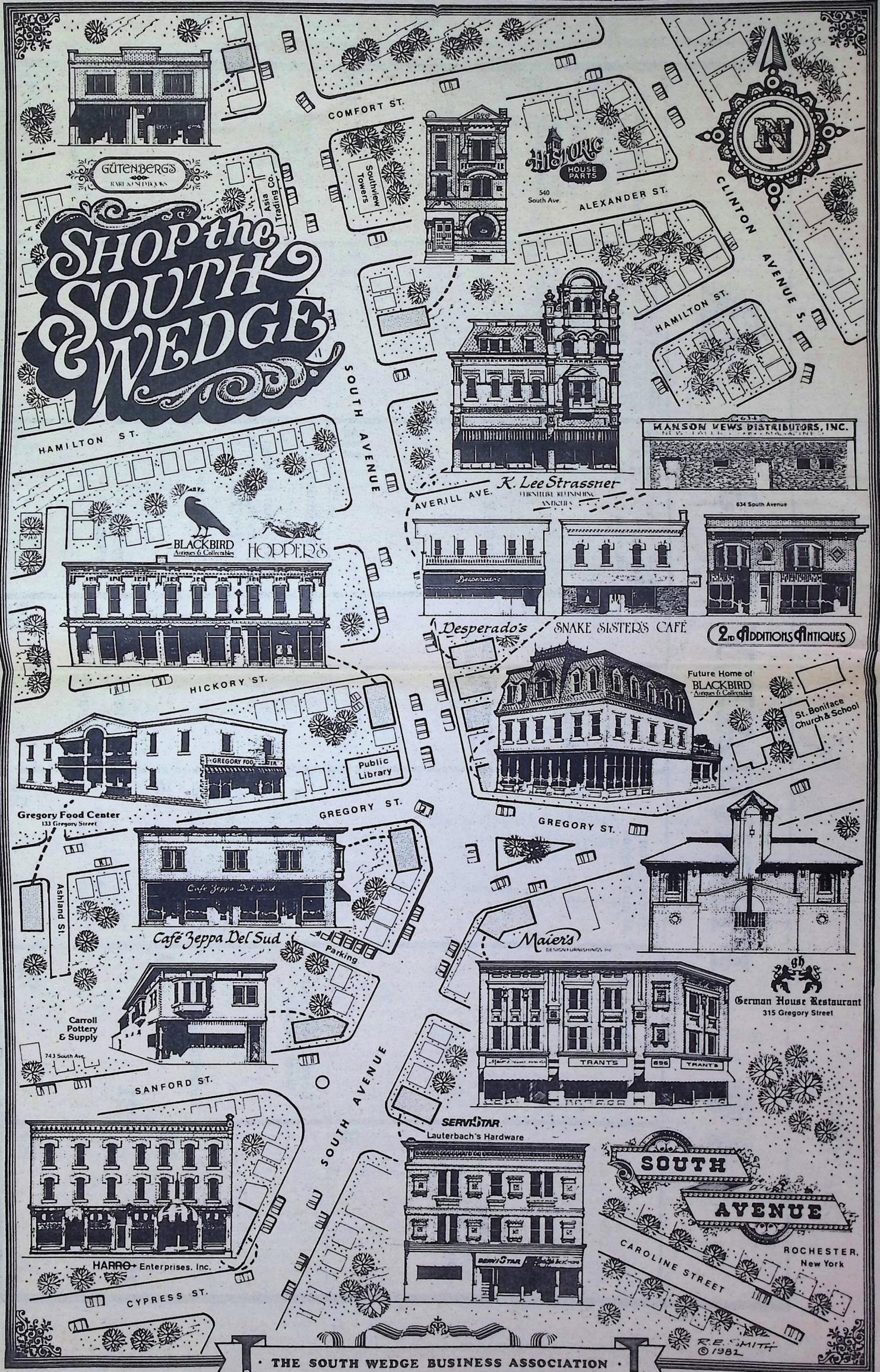
Once again, it is stressed that this is South Wedge Tool Library. Its success or failure rests upon your support.



# FEBRUARY 1983



<p>City Rec WinterFest Cobbs Hill</p> <p>6</p>	<p>I Love Downtown Week begins</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>7</p>	<p>Black History Month Begins</p> <p>1</p>	<p>Groundhog Day</p> <p>2</p>	<p>9:30 - Southside Seniors At S.A. Baptist Church</p> <p>3</p>	<p>Hearts &amp; Flowers Opens at Dawson Gallery thru 2/26</p> <p>'Toys In The Attic' Opens at RCP (see schedule in this issue of The Wedge)</p> <p>4</p>	<p>Tool Library Work- shop 10 A.M. - Screen Repair</p> <p>City Rec WinterFest Cobbs Hill</p> <p>5</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>Deadline for The Wedge. Mail info to 36 Comfort St.</p> <p>Historic Office Gen. Mtg. - 7:30 P.M. Cafe Zeppa del Sud</p> <p>15</p>	<p>7:30 German House SWAT Meeting All Invited</p> <p>9</p>	<p>9:30 S.S.S.</p> <p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>TL Workshop - 10 A.M. Installing Drywall &amp; Panelling</p> <p>12</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>Start Planning For SWAT House Tour In May</p> <p>22</p>	<p>SWAT Exec. Comm. Mtg. - 7:30 Cafe Zeppa del Sud</p> <p>23</p>	<p>9:30 SS Seniors</p> <p>SWP Annual Mtg. Calvary St. Andrews 7:30 P.M.</p> <p>Yeah Marie!</p> <p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>TL Workshop - 10 A.M. Electrical Repairs</p> <p>19</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>9:30 A.M. - SS Seniors</p> <p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>TL Workshop - 10 A.M. Small Plumbing Repairs</p> <p>26</p>



# SHOP the SOUTH WEDGE

HAMILTON ST.

BLACKBIRD  
Antiques & Collectibles

HOPPER'S

HICKORY ST.

Gregory Food Center  
133 Gregory Street

GREGORY ST.

Cafe Zeppa Del Sud

Carroll Pottery & Supply  
743 South Ave

SANFORD ST.

HARRO Enterprises, Inc.

CYPRESS ST.

COMFORT ST.

Southern Towers

South Avenue

HISTORIC HOUSE PARTS  
540 South Ave

ALEXANDER ST.

HAMILTON ST.

South Avenue



CLINTON AVENUE S.

South Avenue

**SOUTH AVENUE**

ROCHESTER, New York

CAROLINE STREET

R.E. SMITH © 1981