

# The OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTH WEDGE

# WEDGE

• SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE •

## Doing the Rite Thing?

By Ann Baker

Some South Wedge folks want a new Rite-Aid Pharmacy built near the corner of South Avenue and Gregory Street. They say that the loss of the old Critical Care building is acceptable in exchange for retail shopping to anchor the commercial strip. They point out the benefit that additional

parking at Rite Aid would provide. The existing building has had no takers for over a year, they say, and it is not just old but decrepit, falling apart, seven leaks in the roof, too expensive to re-hab.

Other South Wedge folks want to save the building. They argue that Rite Aid's plan to put the parking lot right on the corner means kiss South Wedge charm good bye. They suggest low interest loans from the City as a possibility for re-hab.

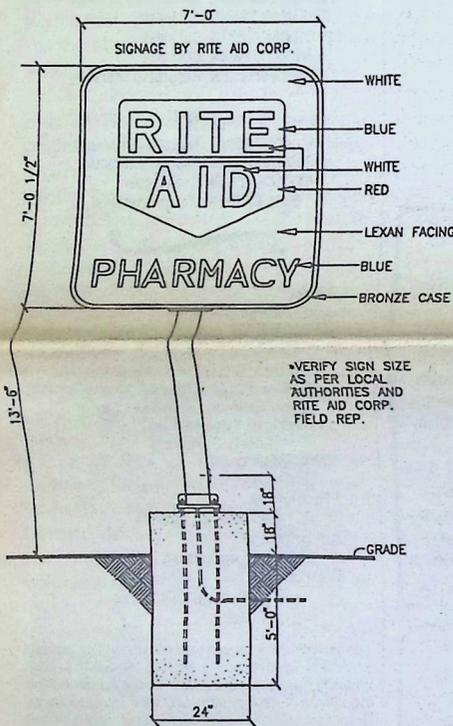
Still others ask why we can't have a nice looking Rite-Aid flush to the corner, with parking in back rather than in front. They envision a new structure that is two stories high with tall windows like our other commercial buildings. They particular storefront itself which is so important but rather the nineteenth century "corridor effect" of the street as a whole.

What does Rite Aid say? Well, they have modified their generic store plan and are offering a facade which is more in keeping with our neighborhood. Whether these changes are substantial or not depends on which side you are on. Two things remain clear so far: the new building will be one story only and the parking lot stays at the corner.

The controversy has caused a division between South Avenue business owners and residents. SABA, the South Avenue Business Association, voted to side with Rite Aid, while an organization called SWAG, for South Wedge Advocacy Group (primarily residents), is pressing for landmark status to prevent the building from being torn down. That having been said, though, it's also clear that some business owners see a bright vision for the future of South Avenue and think a Rite Aid will degrade their prospects. At the same time, some residents believe South Avenue is slipping further and further downhill. They would welcome a Rite Aid to stem the decline.

SWPC, the South Wedge Planning Committee which has been around for seventeen years and publishes this newspaper among other things, is internally divided on the issue. The save-the-building contingent won a vote taken early in January.

The debate goes beyond business versus resident to a conviction about what's ahead. Maybe a parking lot on the corner is as good as we can do and we



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best settle for that. It's better than an empty, graffiti splashed building with garbage piled up along side. It's a heck of a lot more attractive than having South Wedge Wine and Liquors across the street go back to selling Wild Irish Rose to indigents because the owners can't attract a more upscale clientele. If Rite Aid brings in new retail business, that's better than empty storefronts. Certainly, Rite Aide has not been as bad a neighbor in the Nineteenth Ward or Park Avenue areas as the anti-Rite Aid people claim.

But gloomy scenarios are rejected by those who cherish an ideal South Avenue of the mind. The economy is improving, these hopeful folks contend. And residential properties on the side streets are being steadily upgraded. SABA has successfully applied for Commercial Enhancement District funding from the City. Why can't the corner, with some imagination, start to do as well as Clinton and Goodman with its Highland Diner and Cinema Theater? After all, businesses need the kind of customer who is attracted by architectural character as well as other kinds. City Newspaper called our corner one of the most attractive in the city—a startling idea until you get used to it.

On February first, the Preservation Board tabled the request for Landmark Status for a month in order to get more information. The City Bureau of Building

and Zoning has been waiting since before Christmas to hear from Rite Aid's developers in response to its proposed modification of their initial plans. That's where things stand.

But why sit and wait for decisions coming from elsewhere? Since parking is such a biggie, why can't SABA and SWPC start to explore the possibility of community parking behind the buildings across the street from Critical Care. Or even next to Critical Care? The public/private funding mechanisms which make community parking available in front of The Paper Shop can be made to work again.

And here's a smaller task, how about we all make sure the Critical Care premises look better? Keep that place clean. Yes, the owners should do it but the owners want to sell to Rite Aid and the worse it looks the more likely it is that no one will object. "It's come to this," people will say shaking their heads. "Better let it go."

A puzzle: if the building is in such tough shape, why does the asking price have to be over \$200 thousand? Admittedly, the assessment has recently been lowered to \$240 thousand which would seem to argue for a high asking price. But if Critical Care really is in such critical condition and needs more care than anyone can afford, why shouldn't market forces move into play?

## Neighbor News

## TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The South Wedge Advocacy Group was formed to protest Rite Aid's proposal to demolish the Abeles Building at the corner of South and Gregory and build a rectangular box with a parking lot on the corner. As home-owning investors in the Wedge who want to see the South Avenue business district thrive, we believe Rite Aid's proposal would have a disastrous effect on South Avenue's future. Rather, we believe that we should take great pride in having these buildings in our neighborhood by preserving them and promoting the heck out of them.

We live and work in an urban neighborhood. Rite Aid's proposed building is designed to fit in a suburban shopping center. If Rite Aid were to build its proposed building, the value of the surrounding buildings would, in all likelihood, drop. These buildings have value because there are so many of them next to each other—strength in numbers. And the location of the Abeles building is the cornerstone of the Wedge.

The South Avenue business district is a gem! It's the last intact 19th century commercial district with a surrounding residential neighborhood in the city. These buildings are the Wedge's greatest asset, and we are so lucky to have them. Look at how many buildings have already been restored—the German House, the building occupied by Capelli and Trants, the old theater, the Jackson Hewitt building, Richard Poole's building at Hickory and South, Cheesy Eddie's, the South Wedge Dental Group building, McGrath's (formerly Dick Moll's) and others as well as many houses and buildings on neighboring streets.

We are proposing that we build on what these building owners have already started by nominating South Avenue between Averill and Linden to be a preservation district.

Having a building in a preservation district can be good for business (and homes)! It means that all buildings have to maintain a certain exterior visual standard, a unifying architectural integrity. So, if Owner A restores a building, Owner B next door cannot put on a monstrous addition to their building or tear it down and put up a box.

Initially, it protects Owner A's investment. Ultimately, it maximizes every building owners' investment because it brings stability and cohesiveness to an area. The South Avenue business district could be that much more attractive to potential business owners if they knew that a commitment to maintain upkeep on all surrounding buildings would be honored.

Preservation means:

- 1) Only the exterior is affected (paint color is not)
- 2) Interior is not affected in any way
- 3) It is not retroactive—owners do not have to change what already exists

(These come from the Rochester Preservation Board Guidelines. More information about these guidelines can be obtained by calling City Hall.)

Getting preservation status is the best way we can bring stability to the business district and, by extension, to our residential neighborhoods, as well. We believe that stability is crucial to the success of South Avenue as a thriving business district. Please support our efforts to preserve South Avenue's architectural history.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Linda M. Coleman



## ANNE EKEDAHL

by Margaret Cain

Anne Ekedahl didn't waste any time becoming involved with the South Wedge Planning Committee after moving into the neighborhood a year and a half ago. The Connecticut native's interest in the board was sparked

when she read an advertisement in *The Wedge* seeking SWPC members. Anne responded to the ad, got involved and was soon elected treasurer.

As SWPC treasurer, the Cypress Street resident works to clarify financial statements for the board on a monthly basis and develops program budgets. Anne was instrumental in

initiating a neighborhood planning process which resulted in the SWPC Long Range Plan.

Anne moved to Rochester to complete an administrative residency at Park Ridge and Strong Memorial hospitals. She has now received her master's degree in health administration from the Medical College of Virginia. After working as a liaison between finance and administration at Strong, Anne has just recently moved on to become Director of Operations at Westside Health Center.

Anne enjoys living in the Wedge not only because of its diverse community and historical past but also because of its great restaurants. Anne enjoys toiling around in the garden and entertaining in her home, which was built in 1889. She is a gourmet cook and looks forward to cooking the SWPC board a great meal with herbs from her garden!

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTH WEDGE  
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South Wedge Planning Committee  
288 Sanford Street  
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The WEDGE is a newspaper published five times a year and is a cooperative effort of the South Wedge Planning Committee and South Wedge residents. This organization, its members and 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 organization, its staff or its members. Please send any story suggestions, news releases, etc. to: The WEDGE, c/o The South Wedge Planning Committee, 288 Sanford Street, Rochester, NY 14620.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE IS APRIL 1, 1993.



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Business Builders is funded through the City's Community Development Block Grant program.

## Historic South Wedge Lecture Series

by Ann Kingston

If we work from today's South Wedge and look at the roads, architecture and institutions of the present, the traces of former residents, events and places emerge from its rich history. Many of us have enjoyed the recent articles in *The Wedge* by Vince Corsall which have outlined some of these changes. In order to expand this popular interest, a four-part lecture series on the Historic House Wedge, co-sponsored by South Wedge Advocacy Group and SWPC, began Jan. 31st and will continue through April 25th.

The first lecture in the series was titled, *A Trip Down Memory Lane* was held at 2 p.m. Sunday Jan. 31 at Calvary St. Andrews Church, 95 Averill Ave. Participants included Marie Daley, Bill Lauterbach and Ruth Rapport. It was a pleasant gathering with information, stories and anecdotes about the Wedge shared. The Rev. Judy Lee Hay of Calvary St. Andrews moderated the discussion.

The second lecture is titled: *A Journey Through the Years: The people, places and events in the Wedge's history.* This presentation will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday Feb. 28 at Calvary St. Andrews. Pam Scheffel, storyteller and librarian in the local history department at the Rochester Public Library will present an overview of the South Wedge's history. Individuals such as Frederick Douglas, abolitionist, statesman and publisher of *The North Star*, will be discussed, as well as nurserymen George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry, and the 1906 trial of Rev. Algernon Crapsey for heresy.

The third lecture, *Building the Wedge: A Look at our 19th Century Architecture* is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 25 at the Historic German House, 315 Gregory St. Cynthia Howk, architectural research coordinator of the Landmark Society of Western New York, is the featured speaker. Architecture sets the South Wedge apart from other areas of Rochester because the design and construction of our homes and businesses reflect the popular interests and evolution of a neighborhood. What does our architecture offer as an artifact of the past? How does our architecture

enrich our present and possibly our future? Join Cynthia Howk to find out more about the buildings in which we live and work.

The last presentation, *Preserving Our Heritage: A Discussion About Historic Preservation*, will be a panel discussion at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 25, again at Calvary St. Andrews Church. Many misconceptions exist about historic preservation districts and this discussion will offer practical advice from business owners, home owners, developers and architects from various city preservation districts as well as members of the City Planning Department. The Rochester Preservation Board has often provided owners and investors valuable money-saving alternatives for maintaining and improving properties. Preservation aims to maintain the exterior integrity of the architecture while not limiting interior renovations or exterior painting. Preservation is often viewed favorably by investors as a guarantee for the continued maintenance of surrounding buildings. Preservation is not retrograde and can serve to increase the investment potential of an area. Please join us to take advantage of this informative panel discussion.

## Crime Prevention

by Mitchell Dammberg

I recently was appointed SWPC representative to the Highland Section Police Citizens Interaction Committee. I want to develop a committee to help address police matters voiced by residents and businesses of the Wedge. I am scheduling a community meeting for Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 p.m. at the SWPC office, 288 Sanford St. Call the staff for more info at 256-1740.

At this meeting I want to discuss the following excerpt regarding a possible model for "community policing" from "The Will To Reduce Violence" a report to the community by the Community Mobilization Against Violence, completed in November, 1992. A copy of the report is on file at the South Wedge office.

### Policy Recommendation #2

The Community should develop and implement a comprehensive model of Community Policing.

The problem of violence cannot be solved by the police alone but neither should we underestimate their role. The most promising strategies involve police and neighborhood citizens joining together to prevent, as well as, identify and solve problems that lead to violence and other crime. The Rochester

Police Department is making important progress in implementing elements of Community Policing. A full commitment to that approach involves a dramatic change in the philosophy and role of the police. To reduce violence and its underlying causes the new approach to community policing must be more than a slogan or piece-meal program. RPD is moving in the right direction. National experts and resources should be used to ensure that our local program is comprehensive in its scope and approach.

### Program Recommendations

- a. The Rochester Police Department should contract with external organizations which have expertise in Community Policing for assistance in developing, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive community policing program. An implementation plan for this program should be developed with wide community involvement. The plan should contain timelines and be very specific. (For example, establish \_\_\_[a specified number] mini-stations over the next \_\_\_[number] months; increase foot patrols by \_\_\_% within the next \_\_\_[number] months; etc.
- b. The principles of community policing have also been

continued on page 8



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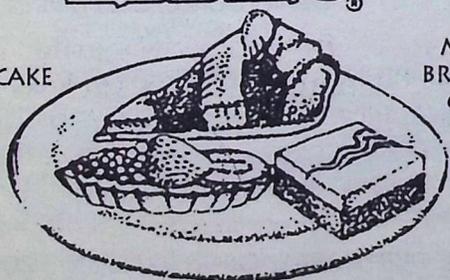
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<i>Sunday, March 28</i>	SOUTHWEST Quadrant Danforth Community Center, 200 West Ave.

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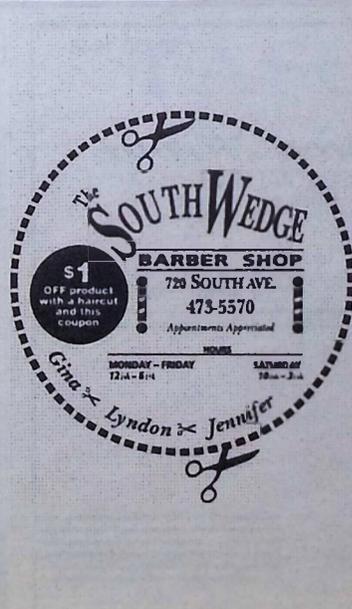
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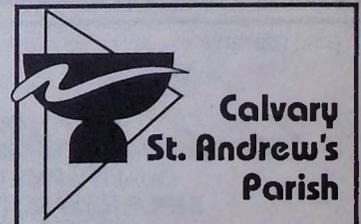
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## SWPC News

## Annual Meeting - Nominations Staff Profiles

by Ed Raskin

SWPC will hold its election of officers, at the Thursday, March 4, Annual Meeting. Board of Director positions for Community at Large, Area Business, Church Representative, Human Service and one position for either South View Towers or River Park Commons are available. Call Ed Raskin for more information.

The first SouthWedge Community Spirit Award will be presented at the Annual Meeting. The nominees and their contributions are:

**Toni Francis** - Former SWPC Board member. Gregory Street resident. Driving force behind the growing success of the Marie Daley Park Celebration. 1993 Annual Meeting Chairperson.

**Arline & Bob Green** - Owners of Sentry Color Labs located in the SouthWedge for 10 years. Sentry has given SWPC generous use of their facilities including: printing, photo lab, type setting, computers and training as well as financial, material and employee support.

**Ann Kingston, Sharon Rabau, Linda Coleman** - Linden Street residents who have been keeping former Oakland Park neighborhood group together as its unofficial steering committee. Instrumental in this year's Cypress/Linden Street block party; history-social evening; neighborhood watch meeting and subsequent crime bulletins for their section of the South Wedge. Each has volunteered many hours in trying to

preserve the Abeles Building at the corner of South and Gregory Street and communicated their effort as South Wedge Advocacy Group. For SABA they have made phone calls inviting people to meetings. For SWPC they have prepared bulk mailings and distributed the Wedge. Their latest effort is putting together the four-part Historical South Wedge lecture series which began on January 31st.

**Wayne Garrison, Lee Epstein, David Rocco** - Group who gathered residents on a half-dozen occasions to meet with the police, building inspectors, vice squad, SWPC and SEAC in order to deal with a multiple tenant problem on one property which involved several buildings and had lasted for 10 years. A new landlord came along in June and his participation was vehemently pursued. Multiple evictions took place over the course of several months. Today, the residents report a much more stable, pleasant street on which to live.

**Gary Ferner** - Gathered twenty-five Gregory Street, Gregory Park and Sanford Street residents on two occasions to address problems they were experiencing with a family on Gregory street. The police, building inspectors, SWPC, SEAC and a volunteer mediator helped bring about a satisfactory resolution to events with the landlord and tenants. One long time Gregory Street resident remarked that it is the first time this block has met for any reason whatsoever.

by Ed Raskin

South Wedge Planning Committee has had the pleasure of having two new friendly and competent office workers since the beginning of the year.

**Liz Johnson** is a single parent of a daughter at 12 School and has lived in the Wedge for seven years. She is working towards an associate degree in human services at MCC and plans to continue towards a bachelor's degree at S.U.N.Y. Brockport. Liz was already a friendly, familiar face as a SWPC volunteer.



Liz Johnson



Rosemary O'Keefe

During the 17 years Rose O'Keefe has lived on Gregory Street, she has served on the board of Calvary St. Andrew's Nursery School, is PAC-TAC scheduler for the Wedge area and most recently worked for six years in the Times-Union news room. She and her husband Bob Meadows have a son at School Without Walls and a daughter at Monroe Middle School. They have been Tool Library members for years. Around the holidays, Rose showed up at SWPC with other neighbors to resolve a neighborhood conflict.

## Changing Times

by Rose O'Keefe

In 17 years of living in the Wedge, I have never seen the neighbors come together as they have done recently to address a common problem in the Gregory Street area. Back in November six neighbors met with Ed Raskin and Willie Lightfoot to figure out how to handle the situation. About 18 people including Willie Lightfoot and a police officer, attended a first meeting at SWPC in early December and listed their complaints about loud music, harassment and graffiti.

About 25 people, two police officers and a volunteer mediator, Carol Lavander, came to a meeting with the landlady and tenant in early January. At that meeting it was agreed for the neighbors to meet again and choose two representatives to meet again with the mediator, the landlady and tenant. A week later Gary Ferner and I were

chosen to go to the next meeting. That follow-up meeting never happened because the tenant plans to move. In the space of two months we set up a way for the neighbors to come together, state what the issues were and then deal with them fairly and effectively!

Also, neighbors on Averill Avenue were successful this fall in dealing with problems there. A new landlord has been very cooperative in helping change a bad situation in a rental property and the neighbors are sighing with relief.

The result of neighbors coming together, many of us meeting each other for the first time, and working out a fair resolution to our problems means to me that it will be better than ever to live in the Wedge!

If you have a problem on your block that needs attention, call your neighbors, call SWPC and let's start making changes! (Rose is a new staff member at SWPC)

## Tool Library Workshop Update

by Phil Stukas

Pat Ciricione of Ken-Ron Heating presented a great workshop on furnaces and air conditioners Jan. 30.

One of his heating tips is also the simplest, which is to change the air filter several times during the heating season. There are new high-efficiency filters that are more expensive but do a better job of filtering dust and airborne particles.

Some of the older blower motors need to be oiled at least once a year with 20W non-detergent oil. Using detergent oil for these bearings could be destructive. New

blower motors have sealed bearings that need no maintenance.

Check to see if you have a belt between the motor and the blower and replace it before it breaks, but first, make sure the power to the furnace is off.

Pat also recommended that you keep your ducts clean (there are service companies that do this professionally) and that you try to have the interior humidity level at 40% or higher. A higher humidity level will allow you to feel comfortable at a lower temperature setting and prevent you from getting colds as

easily.

Pat told us what to expect when we get our yearly furnace cleaning. It should include removing the gas burners and a thorough investigation and cleaning of the heat exchanger, which can develop cracks and may allow carbon monoxide to enter into your heat runs a very dangerous situation! Homeowners can buy test kits to test their home for this poisonous gas.

There are some problems now with chimneys because of more efficient furnaces and increased insulation in our houses. Since we run the furnace less, the flues are cooler which condenses more of the acids in the flue gases and corrodes the bricks or the clay liners. This can cause a build up of material at the bottom of the chimney to the point of blockage which can create a carbon

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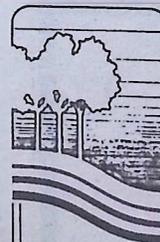
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## Ed Named to State Board

by Deborah Wood

Ed Raskin, SWPC executive director, has been named to the NYS Neighborhood Preservation Coalition as a representative of the Rochester Region. The coalition is the information, education and technical service provider for over 190 housing and community organizations serving urban areas through funding from the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal. Raskin says the major interest of the coalition is to prevent/deal with homelessness and affordable housing issues. As our representative, he will articulate Rochester's local concerns and to address housing issues on a state-wide and national level. Why state-wide and national? "Sharing our knowledge and experience with the higher levels of government can result in increased housing opportunities for everyone. The coalition is interested in getting the message across to our leaders that renovating and building new housing is a way of putting people to work, training the unemployed and strengthening our communities," Ed said.

## Volunteer Activities

by Jean Stillman

Even during the whirlwind holiday season, SouthWedge volunteers generously logged many hours initiating programs and keeping projects moving forward.

One of their extensive undertakings within the past year is the Historic South Wedge Lecture Series, the brainchild of three Linden Street residents: Linda Coleman, Ann Kingston and Sharon Rabau. Organizing the four-part lecture series, the first of which was presented at the end of January, included selecting speakers, sites and topics of interest and preparing and placing publicity for these free lectures.

Linda, Ann and Sharon's volunteer activities are not limited to this series. They initiated and distributed a neighborhood crime watch bulletin to

*continued on page 7*

## Living Pride: Planning Committee Presents Long Range Plan

by Jonathan Taylor

The mission of the South Wedge Planning Committee is to enhance the quality of life, increase neighborhood pride, meet neighborhood housing needs, and promote commercial development in the South Wedge community. As another step toward fulfilling this mission, SWPC began long range planning process in May of 1992. In a series of meetings with Frank Petrus, a Management Consultant, volunteers and the Board drafted a mission statement by consensus and identified general on-going and long-term goals. A committee headed by Lou Asandrov and Anne Ekedahl finalized the goals and filled out the plan with specific objectives.

This article cannot possibly present all sixteen pages of SWPC's long-range plan. Instead, each general goal will be illustrated by one of the specific objectives associated with it. The Board hopes that this article whets the community's appetite and encourages broader interest and input.

### Goal 1: Neighborhood Enhancement

SWPC will foster a secure, well-kept neighborhood that attracts permanent residents who take pride in their properties and community.

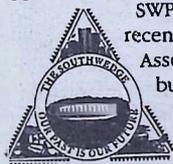


Urban Work Camp is an important SWPC program for neighborhood enhancement. The program currently employs eight neighborhood youth for the summer and provides them with professional training. This past summer two young women were trained in clerical skills at the SWPC office. Six young men worked on various neighborhood renovation and construction projects, such as repairing a back porch, repainting four homes and connecting gutters and downspouts.

In the next five years, the Planning Committee would like to expand Urban Work Camp to operate year round and include children and adults. Participants will not only work in the SWPC office or on renovation projects, but may also work on neighborhood beautification and anti-graffiti projects. Children from community schools may participate in an educational program that combines urban parks and plantings care with biology lessons.

### Goal 2: Commercial Development

SWPC will encourage commercial development that serves the community, attracts outside customers, increases commercial real estate occupancy, and provides employment opportunities.



SWPC serves as an umbrella organization to the recently established South Avenue Business Association. SABA will strengthen existing businesses, encourage new businesses, and provide a forum for communication and cooperation through a number of initiatives. SABA's newly-designed logo will be used as part of a window and facade display improvement program. The consistent banners and color



schemes will provide a pleasing and unified look to South Wedge businesses. SABA will publish a business directory to increase awareness of local services. SABA will also set-up a preferred customer and referral thank you program. Entrepreneurial seminars will be sponsored to increase local business skills. In the coming years SABA even hopes to coordinate with the Lilac Festival to bring some of the festivities to Wedge businesses.

### Goal 3: Community Awareness

SWPC will promote an active, cohesive, vibrant community by planning and sponsoring social and educational events.



The Wedge newspaper not only helps SWPC to publicize events, but it also provides a place for community members to voice their concerns (and see their names in print!). SWPC has big plans for the Wedge newspaper. Frequency and distribution will increase either on the Planning Committee's initiative, or in cooperation with other neighborhood newspapers. This will mean more articles and probably more ads from area businesses. Most importantly, these enhancements will establish the Wedge financially and ensure its continuation as a strong and dynamic voice for the South Wedge.

### Goal 4: Housing Revitalization

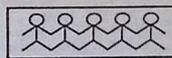
SWPC will provide assistance for the renovation and maintenance of affordable, attractive, code compliant residential properties.



The first step of any housing revitalization plan must be a survey to assess the current condition of the properties. The Planning Committee has completed the bulk of such a survey for the Wedge. The survey will identify code problems and enable SWPC to work with owners to bring their property up to code requirements. The survey will allow the Committee to annually identify a target area for improvement, development, and marketing.

### Goal 5: Community Relations

SWPC will ensure that the interests of the South Wedge are represented in the larger Rochester community.



The South Wedge's most immediate interest with the City of Rochester is police coverage. SWPC will facilitate close communication and coordination with the Police Department on safety and criminal concerns. SWPC eventually hopes to persuade the City to establish a satellite station in the Wedge.

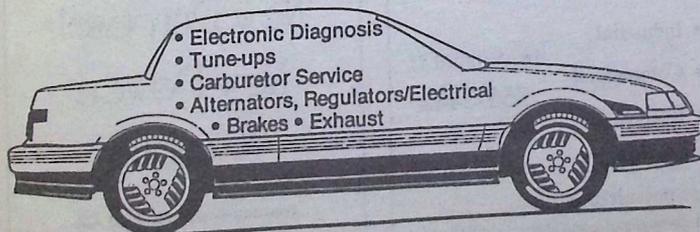
### Goal 6 & 7: Financial Growth and Operational Viability of SWPC

SWPC will maintain financial viability and achieve financial growth through fundraising and revenue generating ventures. SWPC will maintain operational viability and pursue its Mission through Board, staff, and volunteer recruitment. The Planning Committee is currently planning a Volunteer/Membership drive. We especially need people skilled in grant writing to help maintain our financial viability. So beat the rush and give us a call at 256-1740.

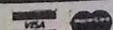
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## If I Had a Bell(s)

by Rose O'Keefe

Anyone who was used to driving around doing errands, getting off 490 at Goodman Street and then zipping into Bells before heading home has had to learn a new routine. Same for the many local shoppers without cars, particularly the next door neighbors at Pinnacle Place we've all had to change. A super market has been part of that corner for a long time and will be missed. Let's hope an independent merchant takes over the store, so even if we don't have a Bell(s), we'll have another song to sing.

## Heating Assistance

by Deborah Wood

Once again, low-income Monroe County residents are eligible for the Home Heating Assistance Program. (HEAP)

HEAP is federally funded and is designed to help income-eligible residents with their energy needs during the winter months. In addition, the

## Calvary St. Andrew's Auction

by Deborah Wood

Calvary St. Andrews Pre-school and Family Center will hold its Third Annual Auction from 6 to 9 p.m. April 2 at 12 School. Donations of small items may be dropped off now at the nursery school. There is no room for storage of large items, so they need to be approved before they are brought to the auction the evening of the event. For information, call Sue Fackelman, auction chairwoman, at 442-0345.

Monroe County Office of the Aging is providing assistance to heads of households who are over age 60 or are disabled.

To obtain an application form for HEAP, call 274-7830 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## CJ's Restaurant Review

by Rose O'Keefe

Hot sauce fans should have a blast at Calico Jack's Mexican Cantina, 535 South Clinton Avenue. A recent lunch there gave me (a mild Mexican food lover) and a friend (a hot Mexican food lover) the chance to rate six different sauces by dripping and splashing them on a Nine Layer Dip of refried beans and guacamole, as well as a Rosita Burrito and a Mexicali Pocket chicken sandwich.

Our friendly and knowledgeable taste tester rated Melinda's Original Habanero Pepper XXX Sauce "the best" and Cholula Hot Sauce "authentic" with an excellent flavor. I could handle the mildest, Tiger Sauce, which would be good on seafood but was too sweet for me.

Our three choices were delicious, the corn chips were homemade, and the salsa was good and fresh. The servings were large, (we both had take-home containers) and the prices were just right. Our lunch including juice and iced coffee was \$17.90. Although our lunch was alcohol free, they are fully

licensed and word has it that the owner's Margarita's are concocted from an old family recipe.

The new Mexican decor is very pleasant and the vibes are just right for a casual time out or an informal business lunch. The waitress was friendly and the service was fine. So how come on a sunny, winter lunch hour we were the only two people in the upstairs dining room? This place is within two blocks of many popular restaurants. Could it have anything to do with the building being hidden from one side behind a large billboard? Would some fresh paint and landscaping make a difference? Only time will tell. We just hope CJ's doesn't stay one of the best kept luncheon secrets in the Wedge.

CJ's kitchen is open from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday, 4 to 11 p.m. Saturday. The bar is open until 2 a.m. They are closed Sunday. Visa and Master Card accepted. Their phone is 546-3720. On a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 beings tops, CJ's rated 4 wedges. ▲▲▲▲

## Slice of Life Offers More Than Just Food

by Margaret Cain

"Feminism is spoken here" and "Thank you for not wearing fur", two signs greeting eaters at the Slice of Life Cafe, 742 South Ave., are more than slogans to owners Bobi Sherwood and Marge Keller. They are a way of life.

The cafe, in operation since September 1992, encompasses not only vegetarianism, but feminism, animal rights and honest owners who aren't afraid to mix politics with a good meal.

"We don't separate politics from food, it all runs concurrently with the philosophy of the cafe," said Sherwood, who was heavily influenced by the book, *Sexual Politics of Meat*. "It's our way of life and we stand up for our beliefs."

The "Slice Philosophy" as printed in the cafe's menu, states that the restaurant is a tribute to our Mothers who have given us inspiration and support and who have taught us the essence of creativity through food preparation.

"In our restaurant, those who may be treated second rate on the outside are treated first rate in the cafe."

Sherwood and Keller, former Jazzberry cooks, have worked together for several years and decided to fulfill their dreams of owning a restaurant and chose the SouthWedge after finding the right space was available.

"We did some research in the area and found this building was available and decided it was right for us," Sherwood said.

## United Way Campaign

by Ed Raskin

The 1993 United Way/Red Cross campaign will officially kick-off April 1, 1993. South Wedge Planning Committee is a donor option recipient of United Way campaign funds. Donors interested in committing all or a portion of their contribution to South Wedge must request a Donor Choice Contributor Information brochure and complete the donor Designation Card. For 1993, South Wedge Planning Committee's donor designation number is 1617.

So the former Brown Bag's facade was transformed into a pink and purple building, offering a laid-back atmosphere and serving food from Mother Earth.

"The thought of owning a restaurant came into our heads one day as we tried to think of a place to have a good vegetarian brunch," Sherwood said. It's hard to find a restaurant where the home fries haven't been cooked in bacon grease."

The restaurant's name emerged from a question Sherwood was asked by a friend as to the type of clientele she would want if she opened a cafe. Her answer—a slice of life—stuck and now the theme not only is found in the interior but exterior with a distinct logo designed by friend, Rose Hillard.

"We brought the logo to The Good Sign Co. down the street and they made a great sign for the restaurant," Sherwood said.

The cafe, open for breakfast and lunches every day except Monday, offers a wide variety of items, all prepared by Sherwood and Keller without the use of microwaves or other shortcuts.

"We do use dairy products but all our food is really natural. Actually the menu is designed from things we've cooked over the years. In one day we just sat down and wrote it and then had some people in the neighborhood taste test some of the recipes."

When asked if the cafe would ever offer dinners, Sherwood smiled and said, "Right now it's just three of us and we arrive very early in the morning. We aren't physically capable of being open for dinner. It was tough enough for us to decide not to be open Monday."

So far, Sherwood happily stated, the cafe has been busy, with most of its business coming from word of mouth from other cafe eaters. "Many professionals in the neighborhood come here for lunch. It's one of the few restaurants in the area, besides having good food," Sherwood said.

So for SouthWedge looking for a new inspirational place to eat, remember the Fran Winant quote on the inside of the cafe's menu: "Eat rice and have faith in Women," and stop in at the Slice of Life Cafe.

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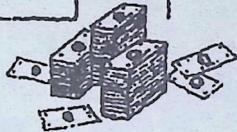
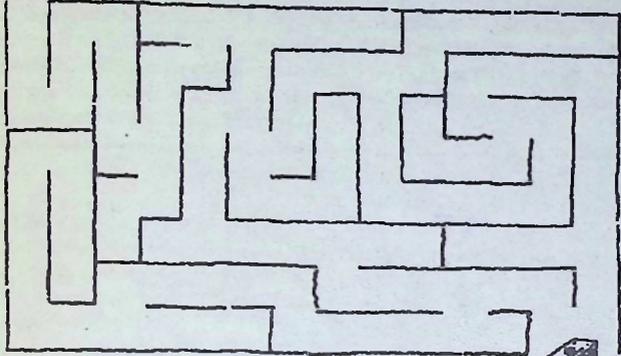
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3. Mail your completed entry and short story along with your name and address to: *The Wedge*, 288 Sanford St., Rochester, N.Y. 14620. Entries must be received by March 15, 1993.

We will select and publish our

favorite short story from the entries received. All contestants will have a chance to win prizes to be determined at a later date.

On a serious note, please realize that this was a major crime which has had a real impact on our neighborhood. If you have any information related to this crime, please contact the Rochester Police Department.

## Volunteer Activities

*continued from page 5*

*Lindenwood neighbors.* Their telephone calls to keep South Avenue Business Association members informed of meeting dates has made a difference, as well as their efforts in soliciting other volunteers.

The trio has also organized discussions about the controversy surrounding the Critical Care (Abeles) building at South Avenue and Gregory Street. All this activity and they have only been formally SouthWedge volunteers for two months! (They have previously been very active in the Linden-Cypress Block group.)

Other volunteer contributions in the last month have been made by:

Cindy Begy Sullivan of South Avenue who made calls to organize the successful SABA holiday get-together;

Peter Stummer from C.H. Morse, Marianne Tucker of Hickory Street, and John Lam of South Avenue, who all worked on behalf of SABA. Jan Wyland takes on the monthly task of transcribing the South Wedge Planning Committee's meeting notes.

Also: Jonathan Taylor and Gary Ferner, both of Gregory Street, helped Phil Stukas with inventory in the tool library; Jonathan also distributed the December issue of *The Wedge*. Rebecca Linsky, from S.U.N.Y. Brockport, volunteered her time soliciting advertising for *The Wedge*.

Finally, thanks to the students from School Without Walls who have spent many hours in the SouthWedge office assisting the staff with typing, filing, telephoning, making copies, distributing fliers and cleaning.

## Adopt-A-Block Battles Graffiti

*by Ed Raskin*

By listening to the community's concerns for the condition of our streets and the vandalism appearing on some of our commercial buildings, South Wedge worked with the City to develop and administer preventive and reactive programs to deal with our environmental pollution. Adopt-A-Block primarily meets the needs of shop owners along Mt. Hope, South Avenue and Clinton Street up to Gregory, who indicated they needed help with keeping the streets clear of litter and debris. The program was meant to last only three years, 1992 being the third year, but it will continue in 1993. Many businesses allow the Adopt-A-Block crew to use their dumpsters as the City trash bins are suitable only for litter and not garbage. The work performed by the crew is not intended to replace the daily maintenance of shop owners but to support that effort. Businesses should make every effort to plan for the up-keep of their sidewalk in front of their establishments as this will facilitate a much more pleasant, attractive community appearance. Graffiti and SWPC's anti-graffiti programs first appeared in the neighborhood this year. Anti-graffiti funding allows SWPC to work with property owners on all of our streets, not just the arterials.

If you have dealt with a graffiti problem in the last 12 months, let us know so we can keep a record of this on-going problem. To this end, SWPC is seeking a new Adopt-A-Block supervisor (see classified ads) from May to November.

If you identify debris, graffiti or other unsightly conditions, call the Graffiti hotline, 256-1741. We will be able to contact the owners, in some cases handle it ourselves, perhaps provide financial resources for people to take care of the graffiti problem through a mini-grant or monitor the complaint through City channels. In addition, SWPC will sponsor the annual spring neighborhood cleanup when the weather begins to warm up. Like all community concerns the solutions are achievable only through everyone's cooperation. Help us help you.

## Tool Library

*continued from page 4*

monoxide build up in your home. To cater to the newer 80% efficient furnaces, a smaller flue opening is needed to create a draw for the gases. Contractors are solving this problem by installing a flexible aluminium liner which can be quite expensive. A solution to this problem can be to move up to a more efficient furnace, 90% or more with a 2 1/2 PVC power-vented plastic pipe that vents out the side of the house. The extra costs may pay for itself in higher efficiency.

Newer water heaters are also being made more efficient and can vent through the side wall of the house. The best exchange of heat is from the exhaust to the incoming combustion air.

Air conditioners come in 10 to 15 SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficient Ratio), with 15 being the most efficient. This year RG&E is giving out rebates of \$100 per ton (12,000 BTU's) which covers about a thousand square feet for central air conditioners of 12 SEER or more.

Pat also talked about the CFC's (chloroflourocarbons) in freon used in air conditioners or refrigerators. Our old refrigerators have R12 CHFCs which are very bad for the ozone layer compared to the newer R22CHFCs. Neither the older or newer CHFCs can be vented off when work is done on air conditioners or refrigerators. They must be saved and pumped back into the system. RG&E is also involved in the recycling of freon in their refrigerator buy-back program for which they will give you a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond for your second refrigerator if it still works and your primary refrigerator is over a year old. Recycling your old refrigerator properly is one way you can do your part to save the ozone layer.

The topic of our first spring workshop will be architectural advice for additions and remodeling given by Steve LaFrance, owner of LaFrance Architectural Services. It will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday March 27 at 1174 South Clinton Ave. The workshop will answer questions as to when you need permits, architectural plans, and how to make your project work well and look good.

We also will have a meeting for the Marie Daley Park Community Garden at 12:30 p.m. Sunday April 25, (or in Calvary St. Andrews Church in case of rain.)

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## Joe, A Legend in the Wedge

by Vince Corsall

Joe Corsall carried on his business as a fruit and vegetable huckster in the South Wedge for over 40 years. He lived with his family at 60 Averill Ave. from the 1920s until January 1963 when he suffered a stroke in front of one of his customer's home and passed away.

He had two routes of approximately 60 regular customers each. One route was served on MWF and the other TTH. He went to the Union St. Public Market around 6 a.m. to buy his needs for the day from the various farmers and warehouses. Then he would start the route around 8 a.m.

Through World War II he had a horse and canope-covered wagon, much like the pioneers of old. We sat up front, always open to the elements. He had four different horses: Sally, a brown mare; Jim, a white stallion; black Jack; and roan-colored, Nellie. They were barned in a stable with about a dozen other horses on Gregory Street near School 13. I remember well the night in the late 1930s when it went up in flames, consuming all the horses and contents. It was a night of sorrow and tears. We had lost Jim, the stallion.

In my youth as Joe's son, traveling his routes with him brought me in contact with his customers who often treated me

to cookies, sandwiches, desserts and milk. He was a confidant to many and loved by all.

Among his customers were the Barrys on Mt. Hope Avenue whose son Peter was later to become mayor of Rochester and with whom I had a great deal of contact when I was Mayor of Oswego.

Also there was the Clune family, whose son Henry, writer of the "SEEN and HEARD" column in the *D&C* was to herald Joseph in one of his columns because of his contributions and gentle personality.

Since his territory covered from the point of the Wedge to Reservoir Avenue and from Mt. Hope to University Avenue, he was very well known, even by those who were not regular customers and often made purchases from him.

He had a dangling metal scale which weighed up to 20 lbs. and four measuring containers: peck, 1/2 peck, quart and pint.

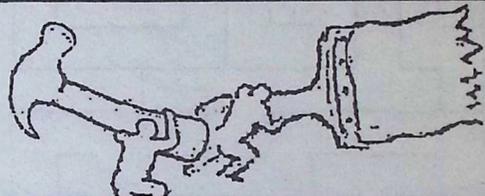
During all four seasons he carried potatoes (\$.20/pk.), carrots (\$.10/bu.), oranges (\$.30/doz.), lemons (\$.05 ea.), bananas (\$.20/doz.), celery, rhubarb and apples.

In season, there were berries (ras-, straw-, huckle-, blue- and cran-), grapes of all kinds, peas, pears, broccoli,

tangerines, tomatoes, grapefruit and occasionally, flowers.

After WWII he bought a truck which sheltered him from the elements. A number of boys in the neighborhood took my brother's and my place as we grew older.

Those days leave fond memories in the minds of those who traveled with him and the customers who knew him. The greatest testimonial to him came from the hundreds of people who came to his funeral at St. Boniface Church. He was buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.



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### Crime Prevention continued from page 3

described as problem-oriented policing when applied outside urban neighborhoods. The Sheriff's Department and other police departments in metropolitan Rochester should also implement changes according to this model.

c. The Rochester Police Department should establish mini-stations in vacant homes, store-fronts, neighborhood service centers and other appropriate locations throughout the City.

d. The Rochester Police Department should increase the use of foot and bike patrols especially in high risk residential areas.

e. The City of Rochester should develop incentives such as low interest loans, and sweat equity programs to encourage police officers to reside in the

neighborhoods in which they work.

f. The Rochester Police and Fire Departments should provide for reassignment of police officers and firefighters for 2 hours per week in community service activities in the neighborhoods in which they work (e.g., recreation programs mentoring in schools, conflict resolution training, community development projects).

g. The City of Rochester, Monroe County, and towns should undertake programs to improve the interaction between police and citizens. The focus of these programs should include raising the morale of police officers and highlighting the positive contributions made by police officers, as well as increasing the cultural sensitivity of police officers to the citizens they serve.

## Classifieds

Help yourself and your community newspaper. Place a classified advertisement in *The Wedge*. \$10 per issue up to 10 lines. Call the Wedge office at 256-1740.

Are you looking to earn extra money? *The Wedge* currently has two part-time positions available for advertising sales coordinators. Unlimited earning potential. Forward your resume to *The Wedge*, 288 Sanford St., Rochester N.Y. 14620.

Your neighborhood newspaper requires your input, ideas and extra hands on a volunteer basis to be successful. Get involved and have fun too. Call 256-1740 for additional information.

Wanted: SWPC is looking for an Adopt-A-Block supervisor of a crew of three, 7 a.m. to noon, Mon., Tues., Wed.

Wanted: Do you have painting and light carpentry skills AND the ability to teach young people? SWPC needs an Urban Youth Work Camp Director to lead a crew of 8 youths, ages 16 to 21 for up to 10 hours a week April 1 to June 30 and full time through most of August.

Wanted: Bookkeeping skills, 6-10 hrs. per week. Must be excellent with a calculator. Will be required to check daily records. 473-1749 SouthWedge Dental Group.

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