

Reporting on the Collaborative Accessibility Exchange

Jennifer Posey, Executive Director of SWPC



As Executive Director of the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), I'm pleased to report on the progress of the Collaborative Accessibility Exchange—an exploratory, community-built housing pilot designed to help seniors age in place while creating opportunities for young families to access larger homes here in the South Wedge. Supported by a \$20,000 grant from Councilwoman LaShay Harris and the City of Rochester, this initiative reflects our commitment to developing innovative, resident-driven solutions to the housing challenges facing our neighborhood.

This is not a pre-packaged program, but an ongoing collaborative process. We are working alongside residents, housing partners, and advocates to design and test a model that reflects the real needs and lived experiences of our community. Our goal is to create a practical, scalable approach that can strengthen neighborhood stability and support intergenerational connections across Rochester. In this model, SWPC's primary role will be to serve as a trusted matchmaker between homeowners—facilitating connections, providing guidance, and helping coordinate transitions, rather than acting as a buyer, seller, or housing provider.

Through early conversations and focus groups, we've gathered important insights. Participants shared that the concept of a "housing swap" can feel unclear without stronger definitions—raising questions about whether the model should involve facilitated home sales, rental transitions, or other equity-based approaches. We also heard significant concerns about equity and valuation. Many seniors rely on their home equity to support future care needs, and differences in home values, repair costs, and family expectations can complicate potential transitions.

Legal and fair housing considerations are also central to our work. We are committed to ensuring that any model we develop is compliant, ethical, and inclusive. At the same time, our discussions highlighted that seniors are not a monolithic group. Needs vary widely based on mobility, health, income, and long-term planning, and our pilot must be flexible enough to reflect that diversity.

Another key challenge is the limited supply of accessible housing. Only a small percentage of homes are fully accessible, and many single-story properties are investor-owned or in poor condition. This scarcity makes simple one-to-one transitions difficult and reinforces the need for creative, community-informed solutions. We also heard concerns about predatory practices, as many seniors are already targeted by cash investors. Strong safeguards will be essential to maintaining community trust and preventing exploitation.

Perhaps most importantly, residents spoke about the emotional and social impact of moving. Leaving a longtime home is not just a financial decision—it's deeply personal. Concerns about isolation, safety, and losing informal neighbor support networks must be addressed with care and compassion.

While exploring this concept, we have also learned many broader lessons about the diverse and evolving needs of seniors in our neighborhood. These insights will help guide SWPC's future programming and projects, ensuring that our work continues to support aging residents in meaningful, responsive ways beyond this pilot alone.

These findings underscore the complexity of this work and the importance of testing a thoughtful, focused pilot. While many related ideas surfaced—from land trusts to co-housing and rehabilitation supports—they also highlighted the need to keep the scope manageable so the model remains fundable, testable, and replicable.

The Collaborative Accessibility Exchange has the potential to serve as a meaningful framework for intergenerational housing stability. Moving forward, we will continue refining the model with community input and strong legal and housing partnerships. I encourage seniors, families, partners, and neighbors to stay engaged—attend a meeting, share your perspective, and help shape a model that works for our entire community.

Together, we are working toward a future where longtime residents can remain rooted, families can grow, and the South Wedge continues to thrive for generations to come.

Programming

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND



Intro to Home Buying Workshop

Thursday, March 12
5:30-6:30pm
Neighborworks Community Partners

[Sign Up](#)



Sand Mandalas

Monday, March 16
2:00-3:00pm
Episcopal SeniorLife Communities: River Edge Manor

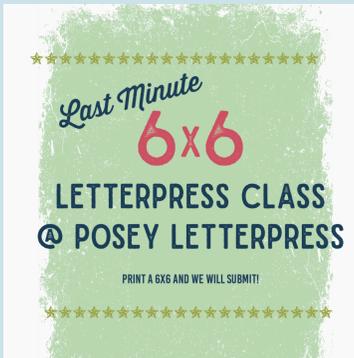
[Sign Up](#)



Kate & Maggie Tap a Table: The Sisters Fox & Their Local Legacy

History talk with Gerry Szymanski
Thursday, March 19
5:30-6:30pm
Ellwanger Estate

[Sign Up](#)



PARTICIPATE IN ROCO'S 6X6

Letterpress Class at Posey Letterpress
Friday, March 20
6pm-8pm
Posey Letterpress

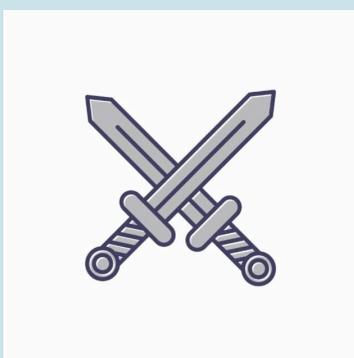
[Sign Up](#)



Downsizing & Decluttering

Monday, March 23
2:00-3:00pm
Episcopal SeniorLife Communities: River Edge Manor

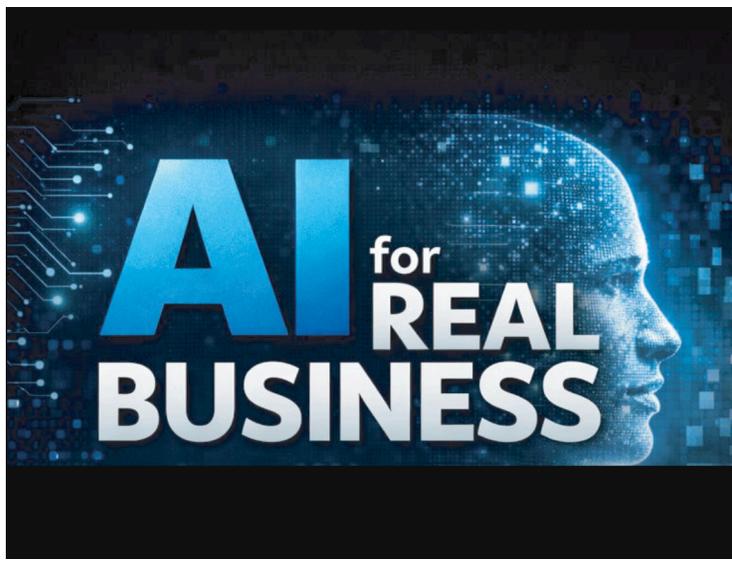
[Sign Up](#)



Sword Play

Thursday, March 26
5:30-6:30pm
Abundance Food Co-op

[Sign Up](#)



Lunch and Learn Series

AI and Business Practices Part 1

Thursday, March 26
12pm-2pm

Women of Color International

[*Register Here*](#)

AI and Business Practices Part 2

Thursday, April 23
12pm-2pm

Women of Color International

[*Register Here*](#)

The Maniac! A Social Movement finds a Singer and a Song

History talk with Gerry Szymanski
Thursday, April 16
5:30-6:30pm
The Ellwanger Estate

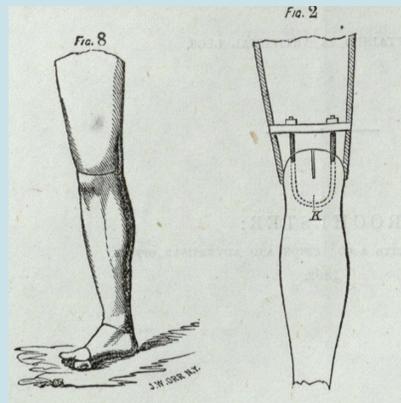
[*Sign Up*](#)



The Incredible Legs of Dr. Bly: Helping Soldiers across the Union

History talk with Gerry Szymanski
Thursday, May 21
5:30-6:30pm
The Ellwanger Estate

[*Sign Up*](#)



community engagement

You're cordially invited....



Neighbors Building Neighborhoods

March Celebration

Monday, March 9th
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

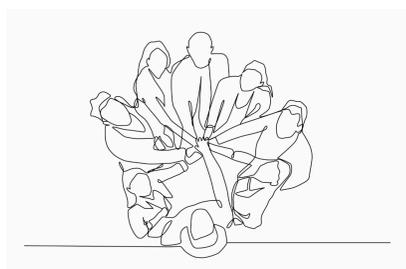
Olmsted Lodge
171 Reservoir Avenue

*Community updates
& Music to lift the winter spirits*

Free dinner provided through the NIA Grant



a free event, all are welcome to attend...



SWPC BOARD MEETING

*Tuesday, March 17th
9:30-10:30 a.m.*

Meeting will be held on Zoom
All are welcome to attend.

ZOOM LINK

JOIN US!

for **SOUTH WEDGE STEPS**

WE WALK
Rain, Snow or Shine!



TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS
MORNINGS at 8:30AM

MEET OUTSIDE OF ABUNDANCE FOOD CO-OP
571 SOUTH AVENUE, ROCHESTER



INFO@SWPC.ORG

WALK AROUND *the* WEDGE WITH US
and GET YOUR STEPS IN
(APPROX. 30 MINS, ROUTES WILL VARY)





South Wedge Festival

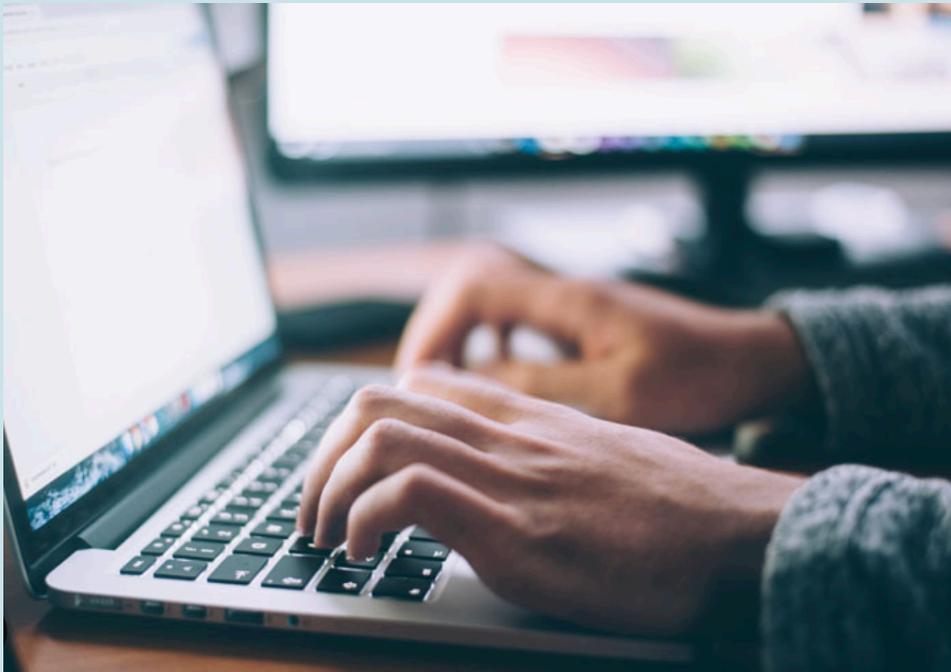
Save the Date:
Saturday, August 15

We are currently planning the 2026 South Wedge Festival. Stay tuned for Artist, Busker, food and other entertainment applications coming soon!

Interested in Writing for The Wedge?

Are you interested in writing articles for The Wedge Newsletter?
Submit your ideas, articles, even photos or art would be cool!

Email Us!



Martha L. Hope ROC Senior Estate Planning Summit

Hosted By:



LaShay D. Harris
Rochester City Council
Vice President



Malik D. Evans
Mayor,
City of Rochester

Joseph A. Floreano Convention Center
Saturday, March 7, 2026
8:00 a.m.

FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH | PARKING VALIDATION



Mistress of Ceremonies:
Dr. Mary Bisbee-Burrows
CEO of The Legacy Drama House



Keynote Speaker:
Deborah Stamps, EdD, RN
Deborah Stamps Consulting

FREE SUMMIT
RSVP by March 1
(585) 317-4601



***Workshops on
Various Topics for
Estate Planning
Including Community
Vendors**



City of Rochester, NY
Rochester City Council



ROCHESTER
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Common Ground
Health



Lifespan
Senior

* This Event is for informational purposes only. Participants should consult a lawyer licensed in your jurisdiction for advice on specific legal issues.

thank you to our sponsors!



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HARRIS**
ROCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
Integrity, Accountability & Proven Leadership

GO SOUTH WEDGE



South Wedge Planning Committee | 224 Mt Hope Ave | Rochester, NY 14620 US

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