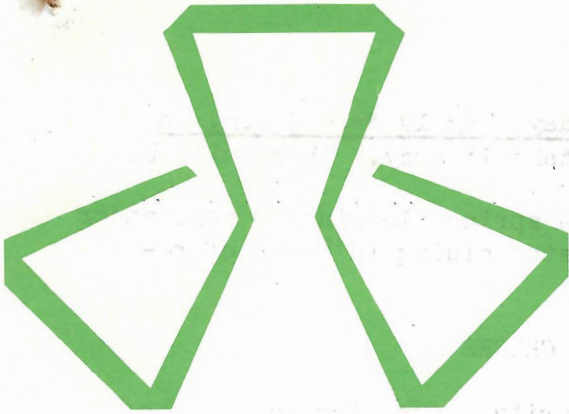


WHAT'S HAPPENING!



South/Wedge Community

Vol. 1, No. 1

May, 1979

HERE WE ARE!

Welcome to the first South Wedge newsletter. So much has been happening in the last few months that we thought it would be a good idea to share it with all of you.

The "we" referred to above is the South Wedge Planning Committee; you'll find our names on the last page. As you will see, we are about 18 people who represent groups, churches and specialties from all over the South Wedge. We have met twice a month for the last two years and feel proud to have helped bring about some of the positive changes that are happening here.

Have you noticed all the good things happening? Fewer boarded up houses, new folks buying houses, more trimmed hedges, lots more tulips this year, many houses being painted. Things seem friendlier too: lots of folks walking around outside and saying Hi, lots of people chatting with Rudy in the Gregory Food Market, lots of kids at the Hickory/Gregory Playground. It sure feels like a hometown around here!

Keep reading for more of what's going on.

THE ROADBLOCKS ARE COMING!

South Avenue is scheduled to be reconstructed, starting early this fall and to be completed in 1980. While we're pretty excited at having a beautiful new street, we're not looking forward to the hassle. We want to figure out some ways to make it easier on all of us. And we want a chance to have some input on street beautification plans. So we've scheduled a community meeting with City Engineer Lawrence Gassman on Wednesday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. at School #13. Everyone is urged to come. This is your chance to ask/talk about the reconstruction schedule, street beautification, rerouting of traffic.

WANT A FREE POSTER?

Have you noticed the blue-house posters in some windows around the Wedge? They signify that we are all working on improving the neighborhood together. If you would like one for your window, stop by the South Wedge Office at Calvary-St. Andrews Church at 68 Ashland Street. The folks there can also give you information on other neighborhood happenings.

68 Ashland Street Rochester, New York 14620 (716) 325-4950

GET OUT THE JUNK!!

The South Wedge's day for Spring Clean Up is Saturday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Get that junk out on the curb and let the City take it away. There will be some giant dumpsters located throughout the area.

For those of you who have been doing some hard core spring cleaning or some major rehab work (especially those who are stripping off asbestos siding in favor of re-painting the clapboard): **THROW AWAY!!**

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH/HOME SECURITY CHECKS

Rochester Police Department is doing free home security checks for anyone who requests one. Also some lower-income people may be eligible for free locks. If you'd like to make sure your house is burglar-proof, call David Baxter at 428-7262.

If you and some of your neighbors are interested in hearing about the Neighborhood Watch Program (neighbors looking out for each other), call SEAC at 325-4501 or South Avenue Police Station at 428-7262. Ask for Dave Baxter or Pam Bartley.

NEED HILP?

So many people in the South Wedge (and all over the City for that matter) have qualified for HILP grants and loans to fix up their homes. Have you? Depending on your income, you may be able to qualify for one of these City programs:

1. HILP Grants: \$3500 or \$2500 worth of home repairs.
2. HILP Loan: Get a home improvement bank loan of between \$1000 and \$5000 and the City will repay 35% of it.
3. PIP Program: Use your own money for home repairs costing between \$1000 and \$5000 and the City will pay you 35% of it.

For more information, call the City's HILP office at 428-6890 or Mark Levinstein at 428-6590. Mark can come to your house to talk to you about the program and help you apply.

OUR TWO LIBRARIES

As the saying goes, we have some good news and, well, some not-exactly-bad news. The South Wedge Planning Committee spent much time investigating the condition of the burnt-out South Avenue Library building and discussing possible new uses. Members of the committee also spoke with businesses close to the old library about parking problems. Finally, the South Wedge Planning Committee and the South Wedge Business Association recommended to the City that the building be torn down and a parking lot be constructed.

In some ways, this is progress, because we are seeing many new businesses on South Avenue and we are trying to be future-minded so that there will be room for new customers. Many of you have told us about your increasing frustration about trying to park on Park and Monroe Avenues, especially as more and more shops move in.

Of course, the happy news is that the new branch library is being constructed in the old Rochester One Stop building at the corner of Gregory and South. It's nice to keep old friends like the library in the neighborhood.

SCHOOL #13 OPEN HOUSE

Many events are scheduled on Wednesday, May 23 to mark the closing of School #13. Past students, parents, staff and friends are invited to attend:

*9:15 a.m. Spring Concert

*11-1 Open House

*7-9 p.m. Adult Reception

For more information, call the School Office at 454-6195.

NO MORE MUD ON SOME OF THOSE LOTS

The City is going to grade and seed and landscape three of those muddy lots around South Avenue. Keep watching for improvements on 1) the Averill Court site (huge lot on South between Averill and Hamilton), 2) the lot on the southeast corner of South and Alexander and 3) next to ABC Cleaners at South and Comfort.

For those of you that live next to vacant lots on the residential streets, you may be able to buy them for \$1 plus some back taxes. Call Mark Dudman at 428-6919 for more information.

ARE YOU TIRED OF TRIPPING?

Your sidewalks and curbs may be repaired soon! In the months to come, sidewalk and curb repairs are scheduled on parts of: Sanford, Comfort, Hamilton, South, Van, Walton, and Alexander. Call Mark Dudman at 428-6919 for more information.

If your sidewalk is scheduled, don't worry. There will be no charge to you (except that it's your tax dollars at work).

TREES-TREES--TREES

We just got word from the City that more than 100 trees will be planted this year on Hamilton, Alexander and Comfort Streets!

STREETLIGHTS TOO

Ashland Street and Hanna Place are scheduled to receive new streetlights. Let there be light!

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Free vegetable seeds for needy families are being offered by the Cooperative Extension. If you are interested, call George Miller at 461-1000 between 9 and noon on weekdays. Hurry and call; the supply is limited.

OUR SUPER INSPECTOR

Many of you have already met Patrick Comfort, the Neighborhood Conservation Officer (N.C.O. or "superinspector") that the City has assigned to the South Wedge. Pat spends much of his day walking through the Wedge looking at housing conditions and helping residents comply with City building codes. He can tell you if your house needs painting or if your gutters are unsafe etc. Pat can also give dog control tickets and parking tickets.

If you have questions about notices you may have gotten from the City, you can call Pat at 428-6657 or 325-4950.

OUR MOST UN-FAVORITE EYESORES

Everyone's been complaining about boarded up houses and the effect they have on the work we're all doing to fix up our own houses.

We have had lots of success lately in getting them sold and fixed up; at least six on Averill and Ashland have been unboarded and rehabbed in the last year.

There are still many more to turn over. You can help the Vacant House Monitoring Committee (325-4501) if you have information on a boarded house near you: owner's name and address, owner's intentions, interior conditions of the house. Also, please let us know if the boards are off or if kids are playing in the house.

If we work together, we can get these re-occupied!

FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER..

If you would like to be a business sponsor, write an article, or make a comment, please call or write the chairperson of the Newsletter Committee:

Jean Higgins
South East Area Coalition (SEAC)
141 Pearl Street 14607
325-4501

The deadline for the next newsletter is June 10.

SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

These people serve you on the South Wedge Planning Committee:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Clem and Helen Bayer	St. Boniface Church
Debby Becker	South East Community Center (473-5030)
Barbara Brecher	Communications Designer
Mark Caulfield	South Wedge Business Association
Pat Comfort	Neighborhood Conservation Office (325-4950 428-6657)
Bill Coppard	Area Realtor (275-9200)
Marie Daley	Southside Seniors
Pat Deegan	Oakland Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Mark Dudman	Dept. of Community Development (428-6919)
Rev. Judy Lee Hay, Chairperson	Calvary-St. Andrews (325-4950)
Jean Higgins	South East Area Coalition (325-4501)
Bruce Lawrence	South East Area Coalition (325-4501)
Rick Muto	Oakland Park Neighborhood Assoc.
Kim Schaff	Calvary-St. Andrews (325-4950)
Muriel Steinberg	Area Banks (Lincoln First 262-4151)
Clara Termotto	Community-at-Large
Leary Ware	Community-at-Large

All of the committee can also be reached through the South Wedge office, 68 Ashland Street, 325-4590.

ARE YOU SURE YOU LIVE IN THE WEDGE?

Everyone has a different opinion of what the South Wedge's boundaries are. Here's our definition:



You are a South Wedge resident if you live on these streets:

Alexander (Mt. Hope to S. Clinton)
Ashland
Averill
Bond
Comfort
Cypress
Gregory
Hamilton
Hickory

Linden (Mt. Hope to South)
Manor Pkwy.
Mt. Hope (Inner Loop to Linden)
Poplar
Sanford (and little side streets)
South (Inner Loop to Manor Pkwy.)
Stebbins
Van
Walton
Whalin

If you don't live in the Wedge, but would like to know what neighborhood you do live in and who your neighborhood association president is, call South East Area Coalition (SEAC) at 325-4501.

WANT YOUR HOUSE PAINTED FOR FREE?

Calvary-St. Andrews Church (corner of Averill and Ashland) is co-sponsoring with the South Wedge Planning Committee an Urban Work Camp for two weeks in July. That means that a team of 10-15 teenagers and 2 advisors will be painting and doing minor repairs to the exterior of one South Wedge house. It could be yours!

Please apply if:

1. Your house is in the South Wedge (see boundaries above)
2. You live in and own your house
3. Your house really needs painting this year and because of income limitations, or extenuating circumstances, you can't afford it now

If you'd like to put your name in to win this free house painting, please fill out the coupon below and send it to House Painting Project, Calvary-St. Andrews, 68 Ashland Street, 14620, by June 1st. Winner will be notified by June 15. Call Calvary-St. Andrews at 325-4950 for more information.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Estimated annual income\$ _____ Number in household _____

Comments:

Income Information Will Be Kept Confidential