

The WEDGE

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The Official Newspaper of the South Wedge Since 1982
South Wedge Planning Committee, publisher

FREE

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South Wedge gets its spooky woogy on. On Hamilton Street, happy pumpkins are joined by ghoulish gnomes and a vampire Spongebob. Travel other streets, and 9-ft werewolves and tombstones terrify. (Photo - Nancy O'Donnell Hale)

City Improves Code Compliance through Scoring System

Bob Thompson

Finding an apartment can be a challenge these days. Finding one in great shape with a responsible landlord even more so. It would be even worse for a tenant to move from one poorly maintained apartment to one that has the same or worse issues.

In an effort to improve code compliance and give renters better insight when considering moving to a new place, the City has developed a scoring system and enhanced a website where you can view property violations, certificate of occupancy status, property information and information about how well the property has been managed. These are all important factors when deciding if your potential future landlord will be a good fit. The system also will also allow the City to encourage landlords and managers to better maintain their property holdings.

What's the score?

A Landlord/Tenant advisory committee was convened by the City, and they developed a scoring system based on a scale of 0-100. Well-managed properties in great condition receive the highest marks. An apartment or house that has open code violations, long term vacancy and/or an expired Certificate of Occupancy receive the lowest scores. The scoring is updated in real time as it is linked to the City's property management systems.

The overall performance of a property management scored based on all the properties they manage. The same is true for property owners. Finally, scoring is also assigned

continues on pg. 9

South Wedge Farmers Market Ends 18th Season

Chad Flint, market manager

The 18th season of the South Wedge Market has come to a close, and we want to thank everyone who came out and shopped with us this season.

We had some tough weather this year, so we really appreciate our loyal customers!

Planning for next season's market will begin soon, and we hope to bring you an incredible abundance of produce and product in our 19th season!

We are working to have as many of your favorite vendors back as well as

some new vendors that you'll love.

We hope to see you all at Odd Fellows Lodge (357 Gregory Street) Thursdays from 4 to 7 pm starting in mid June 2024.

Follow the market on social media (@South Wedge Farmers Market) or on the web (swfm.org) to keep up to date on which vendors will be at the market each week.

If you are interested in volunteering and helping us make a bigger and better market in 2024, please contact info@swpc.org for more information.



Genesee Gateway Park Opens

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

The Genesee Gateway Park on Mt. Hope Avenue, number six in over a dozen Roc the Riverway projects to upgrade the city's riverfront, was officially opened to the public on Sept. 21. The Park was designed to offer recreational space for people of all ages and a viewing spot of the Genesee River 20 feet away.

Mayor Malik Evans and local officials attended the ribbon cutting. Nearby 3-year-old Miles Porter Posey provided a perfect PR moment as he romped on the wooden stumps in the new playground.

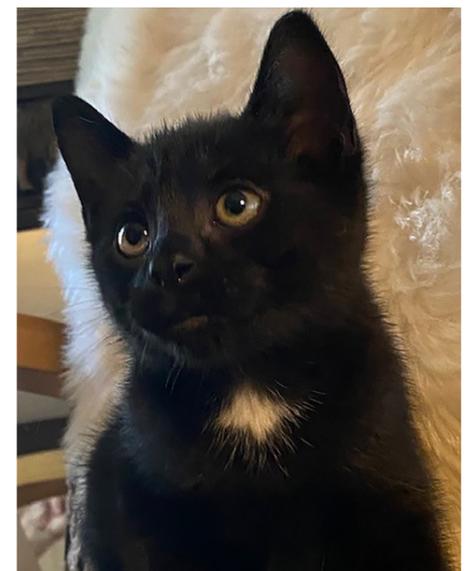
"I love that there's already a little dude back here experiencing it. He may be the first one on the playground," said Mayor Evans.

Local chocolatier Jennifer Posey had brought her son to the ribbon cutting.

In a later interview with Ch. 10 reporter, Hailie Higgins, Posey said she'd come over to the riverside playground "to take a

continues on pg. 3

Feral Cats Find Happy Homes. Story on pg. 6



A pensive "Ink" enjoys a new home (Photo- June Avignone)



Nothing says autumn like maple. Flint's Maple not only syrup but mustards and wing sauce and candy....

The WEDGE Gets Read

Swillburg Shout Out!

Mike Henry



Swillburg Lunch Bunch meets at India House at 998 South Clinton Ave. On left: Jeff Williams, Bob Palmer, Mike Henry, Jack Mars, Barry Youll; on right from the front, Judy Hay, Frank TenBroeck, Jan Hickman and Chuck Youll.

Summer is passing too quickly! The mild morning chill tells me we're transitioning into Fall. For Swillburg that means it's soon time for our annual Fall Festival! The Swillburg Neighborhood Association (SNA) is now planning this fun event to be held November 9 at Artisan Church, 1235 S. Clinton Avenue, from 6-8:30 p.m. Already we've secured some great speakers—Principal of School #35 Valarie Holberton, Deputy Chief Keith Stith head of Community Affairs Bureau from Rochester Police Department and Kiki Smith from the South East Area Coalition. We're also out and about seeking donations from neighborhood businesses for our always fun raffle. Of course, we're planning to have food, and a few local restaurants are being consid-

ered. Typically, about 80 people attend this event, but the more the merrier! So, mark your calendars for this Swillburg night of fun.

Another really exciting item to report is the new playground soon to be dedicated at School #35 on Field Street! The SNA was instrumental in making this project possible.

And, how cool is this!? SNA marketing person, Josh Jacobs, is developing a "Jazz Walk," here in Swillburg comprised of signs directing people to the Cab and Blanche Calloway memorials at Otto Henderburg Park. The childhood home of these famous Rochester siblings was at the park where now memorials stand, dedicated to each.

Another fun thing to share, on September 13th, 10 Swillburg neighbors gathered for a joyful and delicious lunch at the India House Restaurant. This event launched the return of our Lunch Bunch suspended during the pandemic. We plan to meet at Bookers on South Clinton Avenue next month.

Among other neighborhood news are our concern about unregulated Airbnbs and short-term rentals springing up about town and in Swillburg. Judy Hay, SNA chairperson, has been keeping us current on the issue and alerted us that several neighborhood groups desire to see city regulation on this housing to preserve our sense of community and quality of life.

Finally, the SNA is partnering with Upper Monroe Neighborhood Association and Artisan Church in support of School #35 students. School supplies can be dropped off at the Artisan Church at 1235 South Clinton Avenue. That seems like quite a lot happening, and there is! I'm grateful to have an active neighborhood association that has the ears of city officials as we hope to preserve our especially nice part of Rochester.

After Vietnam, Marine Helped Organize South Wedge Veterans Outreach Center

Grace Tursi

As Veterans Outreach Center celebrates 50 years of "serving those who serve the U.S.," the organization is looking back at those who were instrumental in its founding.

Nelson Peck left his studies at St. John Fisher College and served in the Vietnam War from 1967 to 1968 as a Marine Corps artillery radio operator. While in Vietnam, he was part of a unit stationed near Danang Hill #55, where one of his primary duties was to protect the commanding general.

During his term of service, he attained the rank of sergeant and witnessed comrades being wounded, and some paying the ultimate sacrifice. After service, he married, and became one of the early organizers of Veterans Outreach Center at 447 South Avenue and served for years



Nelson Peck in Vietnam

on the Board of Directors. He also began a career at Kodak and later worked at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

After his tour of duty in Vietnam, Peck struggled with Post-Traumatic Stress and is 100% disabled from his exposure

continues on pg. 9



South Wedge Compeer Rochester will host 4th Annual Charity Walk in November 2022

Compeer Rochester's Charity Walk Changes Name & Focuses on Expansion

Sara Passamonte

Our South Wedge neighbor, Compeer Rochester, is hosting its 4th Annual Charity Walk on November 5th, with an updated brand and eyes on increased community participation in a walk that serves as the organization's biggest fundraiser.

Its new name, "The Compeer Mile --A Walk To End Loneliness, aims at increasing community understanding of Compeer and its mission to improve our community's mental health through the power of human connection and peer support.

The Compeer Mile breaks the mold of most traditional walks. This short walk will build connections between participants with a mix of family-friendly activities and stops along the way, ending at the newly renovated Strong Museum of Play! Participants have the opportunity to purchase greatly discounted tickets to The Strong to extend their afternoon of fun when the walk ends and all active Compeer partic-

ipants and volunteers get free admission!

The 50-year-old Compeer Model, founded in Rochester, N.Y., has yielded a dynamic program that uses the power of human connection to help those living with mental illness and behavioral health challenges reach their full potential. It serves as a bridge to better wellness and community integration for all.

Compeer recruits volunteers on an ongoing basis to provide supportive relationships and mentorships for adults and youth seeking to improve their mental wellness. Caring volunteers and Compeer staff help individuals to identify and develop strengths, reduce isolation and feelings of loneliness, and shatter the stigma around mental illness.

You can learn more, register a fundraising team, or join the existing Compeer team by visiting <https://www.compeerrochester.org/compeermile>.

City of Rochester's Street Liaison Program Strengthens Local Businesses

Morgan Morsch

The City of Rochester's Street Liaison program is helping businesses in the Southeast Quadrant, including the South Wedge, grow and attract new customers. The program started over ten years ago and provides businesses with information and assistance from the City regarding various topics, including permitting and licensing, marketing and promotion, business development planning, crime prevention and safety and economic development opportunities.

The Southeast Quadrant has several

create jobs, but they needed additional support to reach their full potential.

One of the ways the Street Liaison program is helping businesses is by providing them with access to capital. The program helps businesses connect with small business financial assistance opportunities through the City's Strategic Business Development, Redco and Kiva and other programs.

The Street Liaison program is a valuable resource for businesses in the Southeast Quadrant. If you are a business owner or manager in the area, please contact Julia Hayden at Highland Planning at 820 S. Clinton Ave., Megan@highland-planning.com to learn how they can help you grow your business.

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for more information, or visit our website at

www.sjncenter.org



417 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620

vibrant business corridors, including South Clinton Avenue, South Avenue, Monroe Avenue, Goodman Plaza, and East Main Street. These corridors are a significant economic engine for the City, and the Street Liaison program is helping to ensure their continued success.

These corridors were identified as priorities for economic development in the City of Rochester's 2019 Commercial Corridor Study. The study found that these corridors have the potential to attract new businesses and

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Mayor Malik Evans and city officials at Genesee Gateway Park ribbon cutting noticed “the little dude” already testing out the playground equipment and invited him to take part in the ribbon cutting. Attending with Miles Porter Posey was his parent Hedonist Artisan Chocolates owner Jennifer Posey. Mama Madelyn Posey identified Miles as “future mayor, builder and drummer.”

break from work.”

“I live in the area, I also work in the area. I own Hedonist Chocolates and Ice Cream and also Posey Letterpress which is on Mt. Hope, so we’re here all the time,” Posey told Higgins. “It’s great to bring the kids here, get away from work, enjoy the natural resource that we have. It’s

great for the neighborhood,” she said.

Genesee Gateway Park also features a mosaic on the entrance wall that features the Rochester logo and “a near-hidden bird,” a signature motif of neighborhood artist Jill Gusso.

To learn more about the Roc the Riverway project, visit the city’s website.



Families are flocking to the colorful new playground at Genesee Gateway Park

City of Rochester Creates Grant to Get Kids Saving

In July, Mayor Malik Evans announced that the City’s Office of Financial Empowerment received a \$244,000 grant from ESL to design and pilot a city-wide Children’s Savings Account (CSA) program. The Children’s Savings Account pilot should launch in 12 months, with the city-wide effort rolling out within two years. Children’s Savings Account programs provide positive benefits for both children and their parents. Research shows that children with a savings account are more likely to enroll in and graduate from college with a degree, have positive connections to financial institutions, and improve social-emotional development, which leads to academic achievement. Programs help increase a parent’s expectations of their child, and provide a sense of security that they have a savings designated for college or vocation. The grant will enable the City to work with Prosperity Now – a leading institution in Children’s Savings Account design and implementation. A task force will determine initial deposit amounts and financial incentives, help select a financial institution partner, and help develop a family engagement strategy. The grant funding will also support team training and development, and the City’s creation of a Financial Empowerment Initiatives Coordinator whose primary responsibility will be to manage the planning of the program. “Helping children and families establish children’s savings accounts empowers kids and puts them on a path to success,” said Mayor Evans. “This savings program is about equity and will teach our young

people the skills and benefits of saving and budgeting. I am thankful to ESL for the generous gift that will enable our Office of Financial Empowerment team to prepare our children and their families for economic mobility and a hope-filled future.” Ajamu Kitwana, vice president/director, community impact, ESL Federal Credit Union, emphasize how important it is to start a savings habit. “It is critical to start healthy financial habits at a young age if we are to prepare our children to be financially healthy when they grow up.” the findings and learnings from the pilot can guide future decisions that could help set Rochester’s children up for financial success.” The Office of Financial Empowerment focuses on supporting Rochester residents and families gain financial security and achieve economic mobility. To learn more, visit <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/ofe>.



The WEDGE Card 2023

Cheesy Eddies, 5% off
602 South Avenue

Equal=Grounds, 10% off
750 South Avenue

Hedonist Artisan Chocolates & Ice Cream, 10% off
674 South Avenue

Happy Earth Tea, 10% off
696 South Avenue

Little Button Craft, 10% off
658 South Avenue

Mark’s Texas Hots
Open 24 hours!
10% reg menu item
487 Monroe Avenue

The WEDGE Newspaper

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Articles or letters in this paper do not reflect the view and/or opinions of the South Wedge Planning Committee.

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For 41 years, The WEDGE Newspaper has chronicled the lives and times of the vibrant South Wedge neighborhood and beyond. Please consider becoming a WEDGE supporter. You’ll get the issue or printed and emailed to your home and a WEDGE card, too.

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SWPC Mission Statement

SWPC builds community in the South Wedge, encourages a full range of housing opportunities and promotes a diverse, historically significant, commercially sustainable urban village.

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Join SWPC in Community Building

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to help us make a difference in southeast Rochester by joining our board of directors or serving on a committee. Founded in 1978, SWPC, works as a conduit for federal or state repair grants that help keep people in their aging homes. It builds community through the South Wedge Farmers Market, South Wedge Victory Gardens on Hamilton and Cypress Streets and The WEDGE Newspaper that publishes six issues each year.

Your time, talent and commitment can help us to continue SWPC’s work. If interested, please call 256-1740, ext. or e-mail gvalenti@swpc.org or board chair Frank Logan at flogan@rochester.rr.com.

South Wedge Planning Committee Meetings

The community is invited to attend all SWPC meetings held at 224 Mount Hope Ave. (Hamilton St. entrance)

Oct./Nov. Calendar
SWPC Board Wed. 6 p.m.

Oct. 18, Nov. 15

For info, email

flogan@rochester.rr.com

Community Engagement
(Neighbors & Block Clubs)

Wed. 5:30 p.m. Oct. 25, Nov. TBD

gvalenti@swpc.org

Black Swallow-Wort a Menace to Monarch Butterflies

Lisa Reagan



Black swallow-wort produces small, dark purple flowers that grow in clusters with five petals



The vine is toxic to humans, dogs and especially monarch butterflies



State agricultural depts. advise that the vine is removed and discarded in a plastic bag.

Have you noticed a green vine with thin pods snaking through your shrubs and growing boldly in your garden? It will also have small, dark purple flowers that grow in clusters with five petals and a green center.

That vine is the invasive black swallow-wort, aka “black dog strangle vine,” and it mimics the desirable milkweed that monarch butterflies depend on to lay their eggs and can only eat. If the monarchs ingest the swallow-wort, they won’t survive.

Unfortunately, this invasive vine is often found right next to the milkweed people

plant to support monarchs. The extensive root systems eventually eliminate desirable vegetation, and the milkweed-like pods produce windborne seeds that spread far and wide. They are spreading now.

Currently, the South Wedge, Highland Park and the Genesee River Trail are massively affected.

Please look for it in your gardens and fences and remove it.

Once established, black swallow-wort vines are difficult to control, and once removed, infestation sites will need to be

monitored and addressed repeatedly until the seedbanks are depleted. Small infestations can be controlled manually by digging and removing the root crowns. Whenever possible BSW should be uprooted completely, and the pods should be removed. To dispose of the plant, be sure to place all of it in a sealed trash bag.

If you’re interested in joining a neighborhood work party to help remove these vines, call the South Wedge Planning Committee at 256.7640 or email info@swpc.org.

Local Library Brings Area Artists to the South Wedge

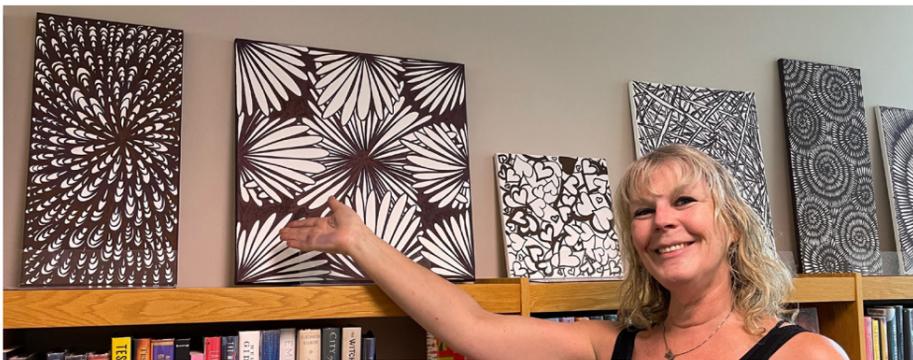
Nancy O’Donnell Hale

Jutta Zelazny said she’s been “doodling her whole life,” but fifteen years ago she decided to transfer her doodles to canvas. Today several of her black marker on canvas art works are now on display at Frederick Douglass Library.

Branch manager Evanna M. DiSalvo invited local artists to exhibit and a mini art gallery was born at the South Avenue branch library.

Zelazny said she works in all kinds of mediums, but her favorite is acrylic on canvas.

The “self-taught” artist said that when she lived in Nuremberg, Germany, “I would always get an F” in art classes. While her teachers wanted landscapes



Jutta Zelazny introduces her “expressions from within” at Frederick Douglass Library

or a still life, she’d paint anything but. “I always would do abstracts,” Zelazny said, laughing.

Her first exhibit was six years ago at Chili Library in Gates. Since then she’s contributed her art to Rochester Contemporary Art Center 6x6 exhibition. Her work is also

hanging in Café Sasso on Park Avenue.

In describing her artistic process, Zelazny said she names all of her work, “expressions from within.”

“I let my hand do the work. I don’t think I connect from within. It’s like a meditation.”



Molly McDonald at Happy Earth Tea

Molly’s Garden Blooms in Tea Bar

Nancy O’Donnell Hale

Adding to the serenity that is already an essential part of Happy Earth Tea was a recent appearance of Molly McDonald and her pop up Boutique Bar of fantastic flowers..

McDonald, a native of Kansas and violinist, moved to Rochester to study at Eastman School of Music and later perform with the RPO. She fell in love with the city and her husband Matt, a bassoonist with RPO, and settled in Rochester.

In her spare time, McDonald built a garden at her Highland Park neighborhood home that she now fills with beds of flowers, dahlias, zinnias and sunflowers.

On a recent Saturday, she set up her table at the South Avenue tearoom and sold bouquets of the glorious blooms.

“25% of the proceeds from both Happy Earth Bouquet Bars went to 490 Farmers,” said McDonald. “I’m hoping to bring more flowers to Happy Earth Tea next summer!”

Along with the pop-up flower sales, McDonald created a business.

“Molly’s Garden is a brand-new side business for me, and this summer it has consisted of pop-up bouquet bars at Happy Earth, as well as floral arranging for a wedding and a few parties and events,” said McDonald. “I hope to bring the bouquet bar to more local Rochester spots and events and find more ways to bring joy to our community with flowers.

McDonald has been in the flower business since 2020.

“Stems for Change was my first flower project, started in 2020 to connect friends during the pandemic. People would donate to causes supporting social/racial equity in our area, and in return they could send a flower delivery to a friend,” she explained.

“It raised over \$4000 during 2020 and 2022 for some great causes: Roc Food Not Bombs, ROC Music, RAIHN, Boys & Girls Club of Rochester, Soul Fire Farm, Loveland Foundation, Rochester Children’s Scholarship Fund, Frederick Douglass Initiatives, and many more.”

Meanwhile, McDonald is digging up her delightful dahlias in an anticipation of another season in bloom.

“Dahlias are so intensive, but they give and give and give back,” said McDonald. “You dig up one tube, and from one single one, if you do it right, you can get 3-10 bulbs.”

No doubt next summer, she’ll be using those extra blooms to spread the love around the community.

Happy Halloween!



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SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14

2-6PM
 125 CAROLINE STREET

MORE INFO VISIT SOUTHWEDGEMISSION.ORG/ROOTS

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Stuart's Spices Shroomami Blend Perfect for Autumn Meals

Merriya Valleri



Shroomami Blend adds flavor to autumnal pot pies

This recipe features one of our newest blends and is inspired by the meat pies of Australia! So naturally it's an immediate favorite at the shop. The savory flavors of our new Shroomami blend and the peppery beef meld together perfectly inside a flakey crust to create a warm and comforting meal you can enjoy all through the Autumn months.

Ingredients

2 pounds chuck roast, cubed
1 pound mushrooms, chopped, we prefer using baby bellas

1 medium-size onion, diced
4-6 cloves garlic, pressed or minced
2 cups chicken broth
2 tablespoons cooking sherry
2 tablespoons Stuart's Spices Shroomami
1-2 teaspoons Stuart's Spices Preferred Black Pepper
1 bay leaf
1-2 tablespoons flour
1-2 tablespoons olive oil
1 prepared 10-inch double pie crust, you can definitely use store-bought, just buy

two so you have one for the top as well
Instructions

1. Heat olive oil over medium heat in a sauce pot or Dutch oven, then add beef and black pepper.
2. Once the beef is browned, add onion and garlic and cook for a few minutes until fragrant.
3. Add the mushrooms and cook for another few minutes or until tender.
4. Add chicken broth, cooking sherry, Shroomami, and bay leaf.

Things That Go BUMP in the Night!

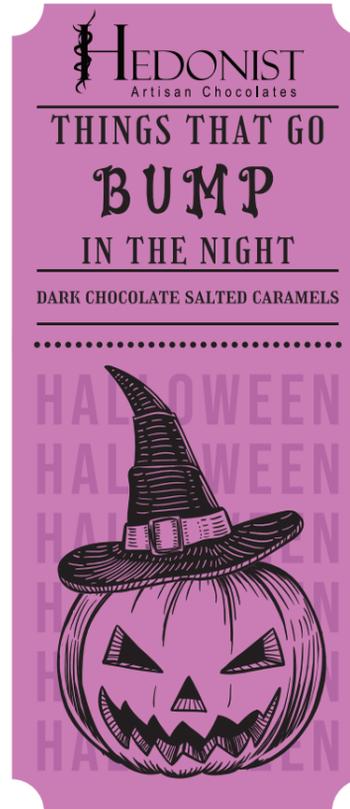
Ghosts and skeletons and bats and Jack-o-Lanterns and all the spooky things of Halloween are now in sight.

Things that go BUMP in the Night is a reflection of what Madelyn Posey, printer and owner of Posey Letterpress, recalls from her childhood.

As an October baby with an obsession for all things Halloween, Posey illustrates all the scariest entities that might make you shriek!

Enjoy five delicious Dark Chocolate Salted Caramels adorned with a creepy scary image from Madelyn's favorite holiday!

This limited Halloween Collection will be available at Hedonist Artisan Chocolates only for the month of October. 674 South Avenue.





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Business Buzz

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Exotic Roots Brings Eclectic Creatives to South Ave.

Mark Laraby keeps his arms wide open as he talks during a tour of Exotic Roots. And he can—because there's lots and lots of room inside.

Laraby and co-owner rapper Alvin "ETO" Olavarria have big plans for the space once home to Wonder Windows as soon as the store is squared away with the City and all the Zoning permits are ready. Art, music and food, game nights and workshops taught by local creatives are part their business plans.

"I'm a homer. I like hometown sports. I'm that guy who roots for everything local," said Laraby.

During South Wedge Fest, Laraby opened the doors for a visit, but not for sales.

The pair have been working on the space since June 2020. Inside on one side is the work of artist Capacity—sneakers especially. On the other side is the artistry of Chaos aka Juma Samson who sells baseball caps and books.

"I'm all about local brands," said Laraby who plans to add even more artists. "Lots of them can't afford a space for their work, and I'm giving it to them."

He's offered rent free space because he enjoys "giving back," but it is also more a "barter system" that he hopes will benefit both artists and owners.

"It's a collaboration. I need some art," said Laraby laughing. Exotic Roots also offers memberships to its customers.

One room was originally intended to hold hydroponic plants and the lights that help them grow, but he said they're about to go. He'll keep the giant green plants as decoration for a lounge that he'll fill with artwork and salt water fish tanks.

Farther back a room is covered with graffiti art by Trew Chains that Exotic Roots hopes will be a lounge when the largest room in back is used as a music venue. A door built by Wallyo is invisible under graffiti until it



Artist Trewchains' murals fill the building.

closes in two separate pieces on a slant. Smaller rooms on the side are already music studios.

Laraby's entrepreneurship was launched in working with his family's home remodeling business and flipping houses. He opened his first business on University Avenue when he took over a space of a former T-shirt business that came with the vibe that a zombie apocalypse had ended the business.

"There was a layer of dust on everything. There were still t-shirts in production, and hot pockets in the microwave."

Today Laraby's philanthropy is driven by admiration for creators.

"I pay local artists with no money and help to jump start them. I'm going to give them an anchor," said Laraby. "I do this because I can't make music. I can't paint. They have a super power. Someone should look out for these people."

"[Exotic Roots] will never be done," Laraby said. "It's always going to be a growing organization." 634 South Ave, (585) 866-4769.

CRISP's Halloween Spirit

Owners Wendy and Valerie Loyet will pour you a free glass of bubbly on Saturday evening, October 28, if you come to dinner in costume. That's right, just take off your gorilla mask and sip away!

"We're a great stop for a fabulous dinner before their dazzling parties," said Wendy.

CRISP Rochester, 819 S. Clinton Avenue. For more information, call 626-8408.

ily will be taking over the location and continuing to serve you breakfast, lunch, and even dinner! The French press will still be available."



Amberly's Eatery Closes

The cozy eatery located at 489 South Avenue, closed recently.

In a Facebook post, owner Amberly Harris said that "a nice fam-



RockKats trapper Gretchen Sheridan and South Wedge resident Donna Ehmman with two of Bella's formerly feral kittens since adopted out to good homes. Bella found her permanent residence on Linden Street. (Photo- June Avignone)

On Bella and the Trappers

June Avignone

Many people would agree these are hard times to remain hopeful. Watch the news. Or don't. Unabated forest fires, species decline, a divided bi-partisan political scene of relentless talk. Compassionate action in real time seems elusive at best. But hope for humanity can come at times in the smallest forms, as was the case this August of five tiny stray kittens and the dedicated trappers of RockKats, a nonprofit TNR program (Trap-Neuter-Return) that focuses on the stray cat epidemic in the city of Rochester.

An estimated 50 million cats in the United States, many of whom were abandoned, live harsh lives of starvation, injury and disease outside while reproducing. In Rochester there are an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 free roaming cats.

We have adopted three such sadly "disposable" semi-feral cats who are now our indoor beloved friends. We feed a fourth named Bunny Boy who is still outside after being neutered, still too feral to take happily inside—as of yet, anyway.

So, when we first saw a small beautiful black and white cat eating alongside of him on our porch—to be later appropriately named Bella by our next-door neighbor Donna—we thought she was a fully feral stray as well and would also need to be spayed.

But we soon discovered sleek Bella was very friendly. We took her to be spayed by a dedicated vet who also founded a non-profit for abandoned pets called Four Legged Friends. She advised us to temporarily let

her go, however, since she was filled with milk and to wait a few more weeks to let her finish nursing her babies, then bring her back in. We needed to get her kittens, too.

If only life were that simple. After Donna somehow stealthily stalked Bella one day and located her nest in another neighbor's backyard, it soon became clear that catching the fast, untamed fluffy kittens in their deep hideaway was going to be impossible for us. Enter the relentless trapper volunteers of RockKats.

After using a camera to identify the number of kittens, the volunteers took turns and waited with amazing patience near a set trap with daily food and a pull string in the cooperative neighbor's yard. This technique required an abundance of patience, skill, time and a tolerance for rain and rampant mosquitoes, until one day the first three kittens were captured by Lorie, a veteran trapper.

We all feared the worst for the remaining two beautiful babies who seemed to go missing after a severe torrential rainstorm that flooded their nest. It turned out they survived and after even more days of unlimited trapper patience in the yard, the remaining two kittens were also captured this time by Gretchen, another dedicated RockKats volunteer of tireless energy.

My husband Gregory, a Purple Heart Army veteran, had one word after watching these volunteers during these relent-

cont'd on pg. 7

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Flying hawk--Getty images

Live Life as a Hawk

Michele H. Martell

While driving along a highway, a country road, a city street have you noticed the supreme, yet often overlooked, overhead presence of a hawk? We can see them perched everywhere, appearing as both threatening and serene.

One morning recently, I had a close encounter with a magnificent hawk on Rt. 590 drive towards the city. This splendid hawk swooped down close to my windshield, and I thought it was curtains for that hawk and my SUV. That brilliant creature creatively avoided my vehicle and glided effortlessly along to another destination.

What an interaction! This very personal event led me to think more about hawks and how their lifestyle can inspire us.

Several years ago, I was on a conference call, and my kids started screaming bloody murder. I courteously explained to the group that I needed to drop off the call and would return shortly. With a very excited explanation for their screaming, my children and then I watched a cunning hawk suddenly grab a squirrel from my yard, then soar high and drop that same innocent squirrel onto the concrete. I'm assuming the hawk hoping to finish off the prey from the fall. At the same time, my rescue beagle twins were outside, running towards the ruckus. When this sweet squirrel hit the ground from his impromptu flight, though stunned, he immediately ran toward the fence and escaped both the hawk and my dogs and made it safely into the woods. That lucky squirrel beat death twice within a matter of minutes. My dogs looked on in frustrated awe, and the hawk moved on to glide peacefully high above, simply moving on from would have potentially been a good meal. What good fortune for that squirrel, and I hope that squirrel's protected life continued to be as lucky and he lived to warn his friends and family to not be naïve when in my yard. The memory of that experience came flooding back as I avoided a harmful interaction with that marvelous hawk that morning.

According to wildlifeinformer.com, hawks can see 8 times better than humans

and can hear up to 4 times more frequency than humans. Their talons are very sharp, and without them, hawks would not be able to survive in the wild. Hawks typically have broad and rounded wings, which help them to maneuver easily in the air. Their wingspan can range from 2.5 to 3 feet, and their wing area is usually between 9 and 10 square feet. This allows hawks to fly at high speeds and maintain a steady course while hunting prey. Calls are used to communicate between hawks, while screams are generally used to scare away potential predators or intruders. The most common call made by hawks is a high-pitched "kee-kee" sound, which is often likened to laughter. This call is used to signal location and identify other members of the hawk's family group. Hawks also make a softer "chittering" sound when content or agitated.

Hawks are continuously on the lookout for what is best for them and their families. Although I strongly abhor seeing any defenseless animal harmed, hawks and nature do their own thing for survival, which is a stark contrast to the horrific human cruelty towards animals that is sadly often accepted. All animals, including hawks with their laughter and signaling, experience emotion and communication. They feel and communicate, even if indecipherable to us humans.

When hawks are not seeking survival, they simply and graciously ascend-- smoothly, elegantly, delightfully—with an assured movement that their lives are careening in congruity with the universe; that there is nothing to fear, and that life is a glide towards all that is needed. Have you seen this? It is peaceful and beautiful to watch.

As I've continued watching hawks following these encounters, I continue to admire and strive to inherently encompass more of their sparkling qualities, constantly clearly-focused to do what is needed, confident of the intrinsic God-given qualities to soar. I desire to have the mental consistency of hawks, moving above and beyond those things that don't work; and on a dime, pivot to make a more graceful move. And then

having an instantaneous mental switch to determine the next right direction, to re-ascend to a newer, better intentional height.

How many times have we heard the expression regarding watching "like a hawk"? It relates to being like a hawk in awareness of what is going on and having that hawk-sense to just hang above in observance, in case there's an intuitive need to swoop down.

It's just as important to watch like a hawk our daily mindsets, self-care, and intentions as they have a direct effect upon our external environments and destiny.

I have grown to love hawks and am grateful for what they have to teach us. May we all live "like a hawk" in a way that gives us consistently crystal-clear awareness of what is around us, to keep our eyes open to good and bad, to decipher when it is right to swoop down and attack, to move on in the same course, or to just let it go and move on. And if it's best, at that moment, to soar in grace, rest and find peace in solitude.

Let the wings of a hawk inspire.

On Bella

cont'd from pg. 6

less days of effort, a word he really uses rarely to describe people. "Troopers," he said. And they are.

Donna, who wants to adopt Bella now, kindly took in her entire adorable multi-colored family as well, and since then we have secured great homes for them all. Soon Bella will go in to be spayed and be pampered by Donna and her husband Ken in their loving home for the rest of her life. It looks like her babies are destined for the same hopeful fate.

This tale of action might not be one of world peace, or an answer to climate change or the political muck we face. But at least here on Linden Street, the selfless action these trooper trappers showed us is exactly what we need more of overall. In that spirit, it made the waning summer of 2023 in Rochester restorative and deeply refreshing. And in the end, that is no small thing.

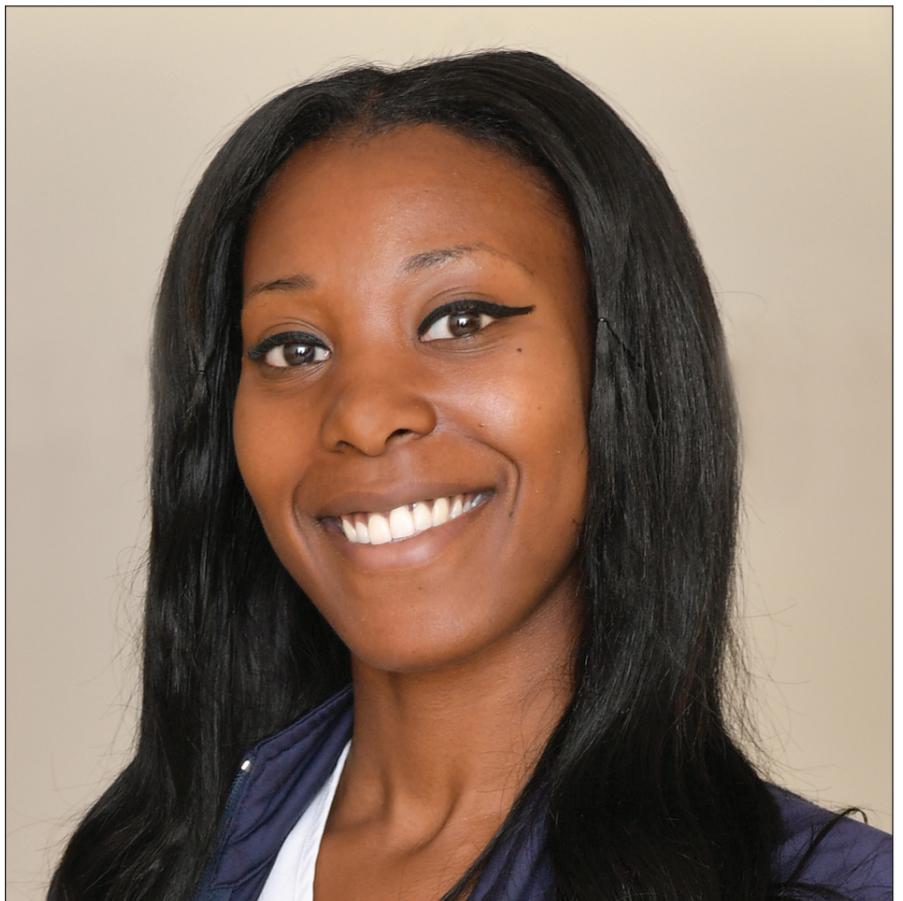
About RockKats

RockKats will be holding a month long Catoberfest at Joy Gallery Street in Rochester, kicking off with First Friday event on Oct. 6 from 6 pm to 8pm. Come check out the show or sign up for art activities on Saturdays to be held at the gallery, located at 498 1/2 W. Main Street, from 12 pm to 2 pm. The events will wrap up on Friday, October 27th from 6 pm 8pm with the silent auction and raffle. (<http://www.firstfridayrochester.org/locations/joy-gallery>)

RockKats can always use volunteers to help with their work of keeping the enormous Rochester cat population under control. TNR works by returning feral cats after neutering to managed fed colonies. If tame, homes are sought for them. Want to learn how to trap or transport cats? Foster? For more information, please visit www.rockkats.org.



Michele H. Martell



Jaslynn is a Registered Nurse and has worked in the Observation Unit for 4 years.

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Scenes from South Wedge Fest 2023



South Wedge Fest had it all this year--perfect weather, a Pet Parade, great vendors and food trucks, music, artists and crafters, and a community that came out for it all. Many thanks.

Photos by Judy Bennett, Nancy O'Donnell Hale, Glynis Valenti



Business Buzz

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Shayla J's Closes its Door but not the Baking

Shayla J's Dessert Bar & Bistro opened with a bang last September in the Women of Color New York fashion collective, and "tons of customers" welcomed her to South Ave. But at the end of August, Shayla made a quiet closing to the disappointment of many.

Her small cozy café teemed with desserts including her banana pudding available in a wide range of flavors.

"I opened with 32 flavors, and I'm up to 66. I'm not stopping until I get to 100," said Shayla.

"I didn't plan to close," said Shayla, but "I was experiencing growing pains."

The dessert bar will fill its holiday orders of pies and cupcakes until the end of the year said Shayla.

Until she opens another brick and mortar business, Shayla said she'll be concentrating on catering all her delectable dishes.



Shayla J. of banana pudding fame and Connie Marple, owner of the fashion collective, Women of Color NY (Photo - courtesy for of WoCNY)



Marilla Gonzalez at grand opening

Marilla's Mindful Supplies Opens on South Avenue

The inside of Marilla's Mindful Supplies, a new business on South Avenue brings "a governing mission" to the South Wedge to create a "low waste life" through a wealth of products, "practical plastic free

alternatives and refills for everyday items."

In the space formerly held by Time for Wine and Spirits, owner Marilla Gonzalez has filled it with items for home and body.

The location was transformed into a bright and airy vibe with the delightful scents of health and self-care products, from vats of deodorant cream to organic dates to housewares.

Think chia seeds, olive oil, herbs and spices, licorice, grapefruit dish soap, toothpaste and mouthwash tablets, and so much more all arranged in a serene and attractive space.

The South Wedge shop is the second of Marilla's empire. She also runs one in Geneva, NY. And add to she and a friend, Bella, produce a podcast on Apple, "Thank you for Understanding" (TYFU) described as "candid conversations about the challenges and joys of running a small business, in that order." 661 South Avenue



City Code Compliance Scoring

cont'd from 1p

to investor-owned property addresses.

To begin a search, go to <https://rochester-ny.tolemi.com/>. The link includes a map of the city with a dot for every property address. If you are using a desktop computer (recommended) look in the upper left for the "Start Here!" message and "Add Filters." From there you can use the Renter Tools filter to look for the best of the best landlords. Remember the higher the score, the better! If you're using a mobile device there will be a blue button displaying "66,474 Properties" - tapping on it will bring up the filter options.

After applying the filter, for example for a one-bedroom apartment, the map will display locations of matching properties. You can click on each dot for detailed information on a specific address.

The information and scoring on a specific property is available by entering the address in a search field. The result contains information on property owners, violations and permits issued as well as property manager contact information.

If you already know the property address enter it in the search bar labeled "Address or Parcel ID."

The property information will include the history of the property, its violation history and contact information for the property owner and manager. All useful when looking for a new place or trying to find info on your existing apartment.

According to the City website, "The Property Manager/Owner scoring system was envisioned to provide an objective and transparent public scoring system that could be used to drive improvements in code compliance. It could be used by City staff to target enforcement, as well as provide tenants better insight when making decisions on who to rent from."

1. A score is first calculated for each rental property based the following four factors:

- o Open Expired Health and Safety Violations Per Unit (30/100 pts)
- o Days Since the Oldest Expired Health and Safety Violation was Cited (20/100 pts)
- o Days Since the Certificate of Occupancy Expired (30/100 pts)
- o Days Since the Structure was Cited as Vacant and Blighted (20/100 pts)

2. Next, properties are flagged for being in the grace period if any of the following are true:

- o The owner or manager acquired the property within the last 90 days
- o The owner or manager has submitted a work schedule for the property and it has been approved by Code Enforcement

3. Finally, a weighted average is calculated



City Code Scoring Map

ed for each property owner and property manager:

- o Grace period properties are not included in the average
- o Properties are weighted more heavily if they were inspected more recently, or if they have open code enforcement case. Properties inspected more than 3 years ago are not included in the average.
- o Properties are weighted more heavily if they have more units

The scoring system was also workshopped extensively with the Landlord/Tenant Advisory Committee, which is convened by the City to provide input on proposed policies and initiatives. The group is comprised of the leaders of all the known landlord associations, other small landlords, as well as tenant and community advocates. The committee provided valuable feedback which was incorporated into the final design of the scoring system.

support innovative projects to advance equitable code enforcement. The Property Manager/Owner scoring system was envisioned to provide an objective and transparent public scoring system that could be used to drive improvements in code compliance. It could be used by City staff to target enforcement, as well as provide tenants better insight when making decisions on who to rent from.

Additional information visit: <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/code-compliance/score/>

<https://cityofrochester.gov/buildingblocks/> Bob Thompson is Chair of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association, Inc. and may be reached at chairhpn@gmail.com.

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Marine

cont'd from pg. 2



Peck today "retired with the grandkids"

to Agent Orange. Later, he worked as a Health Science Specialist at the Canandaigua VA and helped to design the system that became the Veterans Crisis Line with an emphasis on suicide prevention.

These days, after years of service to the community and our country, Peck spends his time relaxing at his Greece, NY home. His official job title on LinkedIn says, "retired with the grandkids."

Op Ed

Southeast Councilmembers Speak Out

Addressing Climate Change and Inequality for a Better Future

Mary Lupien

Climate change is a big challenge that is affecting the whole world. To fix this problem, we need to understand that it's more than just how the planet is being treated; it's about how people are treated, too.

In a book called *All We Can Save?* the author writes that "To change everything, we need everyone." But not everyone is free to help fight for change because some people are held back by poverty and a system that puts them in jail for crimes stemming from the effects of poverty, especially Black or Brown people.

That's why we have to change these systems and make them more equitable for everyone in order to successfully face the challenges of climate change.

Our dominant monetary system of capitalism is all about making as much money, as quickly as possible, which is rarely good for people and the planet. Corporate greed often results in making objects we don't really need and aren't good for the environment. When we treat Earth's resources like products to sell, we end up taking too much; cutting down forests, endangering animals, and using up treasures we can't replace. All of this hurts the planet and makes it harder for people to survive.

Money isn't shared equally under capitalism, either. The richest people have a lot of money, and most others don't have much. This got worse during the COVID-19 pandemic. So, the rich get richer, and the rest of us have a challenging time dealing with problems like climate change. The people who have less money often suffer more from things like pollution and the adverse effects of climate change.

We can choose to put people over



Mary Lupien serves as Vice President of the Rochester City Council and represents the city's East District

profits. Making sure everyone has what they need means having good safety nets, healthcare for everyone and universities without needing to pay. These benefits can help people who are struggling and give them the time and freedom to help with climate change.

We can support local businesses and create worker cooperatives where workers own and run the business together. This helps spread money around more equitably and gives workers a say in how work is done. It also helps the environment because it reduces pollution from shipping items in from far away.

When communities get to vote on how the government spends tax dollars, it's fairer for everyone, especially those who haven't had a say before.

Climate change is happening fast, and we need to act now. But we can't really fix it unless we also deal with poverty and racism. We have to think about different ways to do things instead of just following capitalism. It's time to use clean energy, take care of the planet, and make sure everyone can have clean air, clean water, and enjoy nature. Together, we can make the world a better place for everyone.

Zoning Alignment Project Update

LaShay Harris

I have heard from many residents that there are concerns that the zoning would change without community input. The Mayor's administration has released the ZAP draft and have set the public informational meetings. Please use this opportunity to have your voice heard.

The City has released updated draft Rochester Zoning Codes and Maps, along with a State environmental quality review draft general environmental impact statement (GEIS) to the public for review and comment. This is the final step in the City's zoning alignment project (ZAP), which is the process of updating the City's zoning code and map to align with the City's Comprehensive Plan (CSP) Rochester 2034.

The goal of the ZAP is to make Rochester a "welcoming place" for new residents/businesses while maintaining and improving the quality of life/economic vitality for current residents/businesses.

The full draft code/map, the draft DGEIS, a comparison of the existing/proposed maps, and a description and justification for what is being proposed as well as the potential impacts/mitigation of those impacts are all included in the draft. The link to the draft. www.rochesterzap.com

Informational meetings with City staff to learn more about the ZAP, ask questions, and submit written comments are planned as follows:

A Zoom Webinar will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday Oct. 18 cityof-rochester.zoom.us/j/81226169896

In-person informational meetings: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the Edgerton R-Center, Stardust Ballroom, 41 Backus St.

6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, at the Thomas P. Ryan R-Center, 530 Webster Ave.

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, at the Kulsler-Cox Auditorium (3rd Floor of Rundel Memorial Library), 115 South Ave.

Written comments on the documents will be accepted at the informational meetings, through the website comment portal (<https://rochesterzap.com/contact/>), and/or mailed to: Matthew Simonis, Manager



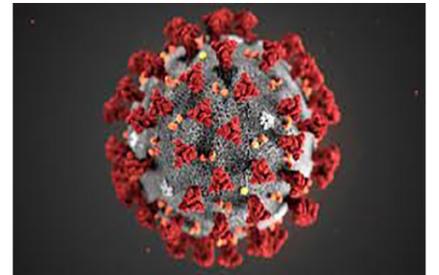
LaShay Harris represents the city's South District. She serves as chair of the Council's Recreation & Human Services Committee and works on the Neighborhood & Business Development and Public Safety Committee.

of Zoning, City Hall – Room 125B, 30 Church St., Rochester, NY 14614

In addition, two public hearings before the Rochester Environmental Commission will be held on the following dates. Verbal comments will be accepted at these hearings:

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, at City Council Chambers at City Hall, 30 Church St.
6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 30 Church St.

Comments will be accepted through Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024.



It's flu season, and COVID -19 is on a rise. This virus continues to threaten the senior, and immunocompromised population. If you have symptoms, please seek treatment, and isolate according to CDC guidelines. To learn more visit <https://www.cdc.gov/>.

He's Back! Bob Carrando of Orbs fame to Open New Restaurant on South Avenue

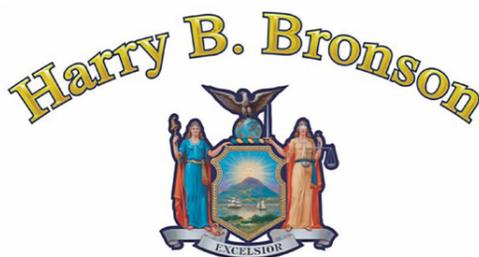
Lovers of Orbs Restaurant—its heavenly brunches and meatball "ball sacks," and its owner Bob Carrando will be ecstatic to learn he's coming back to the South Wedge.

Carrando will be taking over the former home of Beale Street and later the Toasted Bear Tavern on South Avenue and opening a new restaurant.

Today, the building's windows are papered except for one small sign that reads "Angelina's."

Carrando replied to a WEDGE Newspaper request for info via Messenger and said that he's aiming to open after the new year.

Carrando writes that the menu will feature "pasta, steak, seafood, cocktails and wine."



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Karina's Flowers at Abundance Co-op

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The South Wedge is abloom just in time for holiday decorating. Abundance Co-op is carrying bouquets from local florists. Karina's Flowers is new to the scene. Stop by and buy a bunch.

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Both boys and girls wore dresses in 19th century America, and conventional colors were reversed. Boys wore pink while girls wore blue. The dress on the right features tiny red cherries and was worn by a little boy.

GCV&M Hosts Intriguing Exhibit "Becoming Ungendered"

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

In a time when some people are getting their knickers in twist when a venue hosts Drag Story Hours, a very popular Genesee Country Village and Museum multi-media exhibit "Being Gendered: Garments as Artifacts" might just loosen them a just a tad.

The exhibit, held in the John L. Wehle Gallery, on the museum grounds is described as "a historic fashion and textile exhibit complemented by historic imagery in the form of daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, tin types, and early 20th-century photography" that "both record and depict how Americans actually dressed in the 19th and early 20th centuries, conveying the nuances of visualized gender identities and gender roles."

Brandon W. Brooks, curator of the John L. Wehle Gallery, has compiled a fascinating combination of clothing from the Susan Greene Costume Collection along with loans from institutions and partners.

Gerry Szymanski, a noted local photographer and lecturer in the Department of Musicology at the Eastman School of Music, was invited to add to the exhibit. One highlight comes from Szymanski's collec-

tion, a daguerreotype (1845-1855) that features two 19th century men showing "manly affection." The photos are intriguing because historians note that "in the early years of photography, social and gender roles were rigidly defined and enforced. Why then, are there so many pictures capturing pairs of men holding hands?"

Garments, art and photos depict "the Dandy, the Bloomer, Dress Reformers and Women's Rights advocates, the lady cyclist, female impersonators, and the Public Universal Friend: a religious leader who may have identified as non-binary if that word was available to them in the 19th century. *Hodinöhsö:ni'* (Haudenosaunee) garments are also exhibited as an entry-point into the discussion of how the Western gender binary system directly affects the gendering of 19th-century *Hodinöhsö:ni'* clothing."

The exhibit, sponsored by Trillium, continues through October 2024 at the Genesee Country Village and Museum, 1410 Flint Road, Mumfords, NY. Admission to the Gallery is included with general Museum admission.



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Somewhere in the South Wedge

Ahhh, autumn. "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness..." writes Keats. Happy tomatoes sun themselves on a South Wedge porch. (Photo - Nancy O'Donnell Hale)



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