

WEDGE

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTH WEDGE

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▲ PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION SERVING THE SOUTH WEDGE ▲

Wedgestock 2007: Not Your Ordinary Annual Meeting

By Linda Coleman

About 400 neighbors from the South Wedge and the Rochester area attended Wedgestock 2007: Not Your Ordinary Annual Meeting of the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) on a beautiful end-of-summer day, Sunday, August 26, at the Highland Bowl. Its purpose was to gather neighbors together, celebrate SWPC's triumphs of the past year, vote for new board members, and have some fun.

Music played all afternoon, drawing in a crowd to sing and dance along. *Voices of Clouds*, a contemporary gospel music group, got the afternoon started with its beautiful rhythms, and then, as it did last year, *The Buddhahood*, a world music band, rocked until the end of the afternoon.

Under the big tent, several tables, representing Neighbors' Council, PAC-TAC, and SWPC's home repair and business development services were hosted by SWPC staff and board committee members, as well as Crime Prevention Officer Brian Bannerman from the



Voices of Clouds opened Wedgestock and enthralled the crowd. Photo: Mike Fleche

NET Office. Posters listed each of the board committees' accomplishments: the KaBoom™ playground renovation of Marie Daley Park, the South Wedge Farmers Market, Knowledge Co-op fundraisers, and affordable housing development. Postcards were collected from neighbors who signed up to get

e-mail updates on Wedge news. Interested potential PAC-TACers signed up to be trained. New SWPC members' names were collected. Wedgestock t-shirts, designed by Wedge neighbor Daphne Stopher (the design was also featured on posters and postcards) and made by the DePaul T-Shirt Factory, were sold.

Local historian Rose O'Keefe had a booth to promote the History Fair on September 17 at the German House and to sell her books on the history of the South Wedge and Southeast Rochester. ArtPeace, a not-for-profit organization that cultivates strengths in underserved youth and adults through the integration of arts, recreation,

technology and entrepreneurship, had a booth to share its mission, and Wedge resident Robin Jaeckel applied henna designs to all those interested.

Lots of families and friends filled the lawn, booths offered several activities for children: tie-dye t-shirts, make-your-own hula hoop, nature mobiles, sponge printmaking, and a "wishing tree."

The South Wedge's Julienne's Catering was busy all afternoon cooking and selling hot dogs, Italian sausages, peppers and onions and grilled portabella mushrooms. BASWA members sold soft drinks and water.

SWPC members were invited to vote for new board members, and at the end of the day, Ben Munson from Averill Avenue, Sarah Johnstone on Menlo Place, and Monica McCullough of Providence Housing had all been elected. At Wedgestock's conclusion, SWPC Executive Director Bob Boyd announced that the half-and-half raffle had raised a total of \$240, half of which went to the winners.

It was a rollicking good time on a sweet sunny day in the Wedge. ▲

Housing Development Project Nears Completion Soon

By Brian Pincelli

The renovation of the double house at 111-113 Hamilton Street is near completion. This project represents a significant step towards the redevelopment and provision of quality affordable housing in the South Wedge neighborhood. The project consists of the total rehab of 2 two-bedroom apartments which include refinished hardwood floors, new windows, a new furnace

and water heater, and completely remodeled kitchens and bathrooms. Exterior improvements include a new roof, new hardiplank siding, and new front porches. The apartments will be rented to two income qualified renters. This project is collaboration between SWPC and the New York State Housing Trust Fund.

SWPC, in connection with the Community Housing Development Organization, will also begin renovations of a single family house at 11 Nelson Street in the Swillberg neighborhood which will be available for purchase. Renovations include remodeled kitchens and bathrooms, repair and re-painting of the siding, a new roof, new furnace and water heater, and refinishing and repair of hardwood floors.

For additional information on renting or purchasing, contact Brian Pincelli at 585-256-1740, ext.106. ▲

New York Main Street Focuses on S. Clinton Avenue

By Eileen Thomas

South Clinton Avenue is the focus of commercial building renovation and façade restoration, thanks to a New York Main Street Program (NYMS) grant that targets the northern end of the street.

SWPC was notified in August that it had been awarded a third NYMS grant of \$200,000 for the northern end of South Clinton Avenue. Owners of commercial and mixed-use commercial buildings in the Byron to Gregory Street portion of South Clinton Avenue will be able to apply for up to \$50,000 in funds for a full building renovation, or up to \$10,000 for facade restoration. The property owner must provide a dollar-for-dollar match.

Working with the ESCAPE (Evolving South Clinton Avenue Places & Environments) Committee, SWPC will use \$175,000 to



PROGRAM AWARDEE

provide funds to commercial and mixed-use property owners whose buildings are in need of restorative work. An additional \$25,000 will go towards streetscape enhancements.

"South Clinton Avenue presents an interesting challenge because it has several different functional ar-

continued on page 10

Gregory Street Improvement Project Ending

The contractor has nearly completed paving of Gregory Street from South Clinton to South Avenue with sidewalks, top seeding and planting to be done shortly. The South Avenue to Mt. Hope portion is underway, with new curbs and sidewalks going in simultaneously. The final part of the project will include re-setting of the crosswalks at South Avenue and Gregory Street with similar crosswalks crossing Gregory to be completed as the final part of the project. Total project completion is set for the end of October.



Highland Park begins to fill for Wedgestock festivities. See page 7 for more photos of the day. Photo: Brian Pincelli

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South Wedge Profile: Meet Lyjha Wilton

By Nancy O'Donnell

Lyjha Wilton's is adding one more title, "Chair of the SWPC Board", to an already long list—community developer, cafe owner, festival planner, husband and father. His name has been in the press for almost two years now as his presence in the South Wedge has increased. Most recently he was

named one of the honorees of the annual *Rochester Business Journal* "Forty Under Forty" awards, which recognize professionals under 40 years of age for service in their jobs and in the community.

Wilton began his connection with the South Wedge as a landlord, believing in a theory that a community can be changed, one house at a time.

"I was convinced it would work,"

said Wilton. "That if you have a problem house, drug activity for example, and you acquire the property, shine it up. You can change a whole street."

Wilton who grew up in Lowville, New York, a small farming town in the Adirondacks, said he learned his work ethic from his first job on a dairy farm.

"They worked hard until dark. I get a lot of satisfaction out of hard work," said Wilton.

After that first job, Wilton continued a history of hard work. His first job as "the only pizza delivery guy in Lowville," convinced him to head for new horizons. He traveled to Colorado for a long term ski vacation until his jeep "burst into flames with everything I owned on the edge of cliff."

When he returned East, Wilton entered SUNY in Oswego on a "five-year plan" studying zoology. His soon-to-be wife, Jillian, "gave him a reality check" and he changed his major to communications.

"I ended up loving it, especially PR, and I did really well," said Wilton.

After graduation, Wilton took an internship with Budget-Rent-a-Car. His work on a project to prevent bad drivers from renting the company's cars was implemented across the country and garnered him a full-time job. Next was a stint as a general manager and director of sales at Marriott Hotels.

While renting an apartment at Pearl and Alexander Streets, Wilton fell in love with the building that now houses Boulder Cafe.



The Wiltons at Wedgestock. L-R: Cooper, Lennon and Lyjha. Photo: Nancy O'Donnell

"I loved the cornice and the shape and the copper trim. It was really cool," said Wilton. "I was driving home and I saw a 'For Sale' sign and I bought it on the spot."

He decided to open a coffee shop even though he wasn't sure it would work.

The cafe has not only made it as a destination spot in the South Wedge, but Wilton now holds annual music Boulderfests.

"I wanted to show off the neighborhood, and I tried to recruit people to plan a festival and no one wanted to." So he organized it.

"I want people to see the [South Wedge] as up and coming. It's not a scary place. There's been a changed perception. It's a blend of cultures and that's what a neighborhood should be."

He's also welcomed the South Wedge Farmers Market to an expanded parking lot behind his properties.

Despite all the hard work, Wilton still manages to keep mornings for his wife Jillian and three children: sons Cooper, 4, and Van, 2½, and daughter Lennon, age 6 months. ▲

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CORRECTION

In our August issue The Federal Home Loan Bank of New York's (FHLB) Affordable Housing Program was incorrectly identified as a federal bank. The FHLB is an association of private banking institutions that are federally chartered to provide mortgage and other housing-related loans.

Also in our August issue, the article on the Marie Daley Park playground renovation neglected to credit SWPC with the great job of recruiting 90 of the 195 volunteers who helped with that project. We are also very appreciative of the others who brought so many together to do so much—The Home Depot team's 82 volunteers—along with the many Playground Committee members who invited their friends and family members to help out.

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With the heating season right around the corner, here are two important safety tips for you to remember:

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South Wedge Planning Committee
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Qeb Tbadb Kb t p'm'nbj ^ k l'g'c l' o'mo l e q kb t p'm'nbj l p m' r' f'p'eba by the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC), a grassroots organization serving the South Wedge Urban Village. Its mission is to provide accurate coverage of neighborhood news as well as p' l' 'n' p' r' b' 'ka k' q' l' k' n' kb t p' l' e' q' 's' b' 'l' q' e' b' 'n' b' 'n' 'q' 't' 'p' 'e' p' published in 1982 as The S.O.S. News.

Today, the Wedge is printed bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October and December) with a circulation of 7300. The newspaper is mailed to homes in the South Wedge and distributed to area businesses and retail shops and other drop points in the Greater Rochester area.

> q' 'i' b' p' f' k' q' e' p' m' m' b' a' l' k' l' q' kb' 'b' p' p' 'o' l' v' o' b' 'b' 'q' e' b' s' b' t' 'ka, l' o' opinions of SWPC.

Please send any story suggestions or news releases to Wedge Newspaper Editor Nancy O'Donnell, 224, Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620 or nodonnell@swpc.org.

Please see our complete Advertising Deadlines and Rates online at www.swpc.org.

Before recycling this printed newspaper, why not pass it on to a friend or co-worker.

Our Mission Statement

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

Ad Deadline
for Next Issue
October 26!

Story by Mike Fleche

Residents of Episcopal Senior Life's *River Edge Manor* on Mount Hope Avenue welcomed back a favorite when their new housing manager started at the end of June. **René Barnes** used to sit at the front desk as administrative assistant for three years, under former manager **Gary Shaw**. Gary, a long-time SWPC board member and organizer of the River Challenge, retired in March.



René Barnes

"It's been great. It's been a real homecoming," said René. "Most of the residents already knew me; either they were here when I got here, or I helped them move in. So it's been a smooth transition."

Marcy Eckerson, who now occupies the front desk, was happy to see René return.

"It's nice having a boss who knows what your job is. The residents love her. She's very enthusiastic," added Marcy.

René left the company in 2003, but she was wooed back a year later to work in marketing. She was responsible for community outreach

and awareness, and helping people transition into the community.

She still looks to Gary for advice, calling him every couple of weeks when she has a question.

"Working under Gary was nice," she said. "I hope I can carry out his values and the things he really believed in. I hope I can continue that for the residents."

River Edge Manor, 1535 Mount Hope Avenue. Phone 232-3130. Visit www.episcopalseniorlife.org

Who was that young man working at Vail Automotive this summer? Can it be the same **Matthew Vail** who used to attend St. Boniface School, and walked over to his father's garage every afternoon?

Matt, who turned 16 on September 9, is now a junior at Webster Thomas High School. He started helping out

at the garage two years ago, and this summer worked three days a week. He did oil changes, tire rotation, brakes, suspensions" pretty much anything that was needed."

"I do whatever," Matt said. "Chris helps me, or my dad."

"He does a good job for his age," said veteran mechanic **Chris Siebert**. And according to dad, **Dan Vail**, they got through a lot of work with Matthew's help. "We kept the lot pretty well cleaned out this summer," he said.

In his spare time, Matt likes to play hockey. After high school, he plans to attend a technical school and work with his dad.

Overall, Matt enjoyed working at the garage this summer. "I had a good time," he said. "And I learned a lot. I always learn a lot."



Dan Vail and son Matthew

Jim says that his new employee has become a valuable addition to the business. "She's a very good listener when it comes to our custom-



Chris Doyle

ers' problems," he said. Since joining the firm, Chris has redesigned the website, creating a database to showcase the off-lease used vehicles the company has for sale. She also developed some new signs.

"The signs show clearly what we do: tune-ups, brakes, exhaust, a/c repair," she said. The new signs led to new customers. "People walk in and say, I never knew what you did here!"

A city dweller herself, Chris is a big advocate of city living. "I love the city," she says. "I've lived here 25 years. I feel really strongly about the future of the city. It's great to see how restaurants are booming on South Clinton."

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Chris Doyle had been a customer of the *Wire Wheel* for a long time. But she never thought she'd end up working there.

Then last spring Chris, who does freelance advertising and marketing, met with owner **Jim Mills** to discuss an ad campaign. And he offered her a job.

"I found I enjoyed getting to know the customers," said the bubbly service writer, who started in April. "It's never dull. And I've learned a whole lot about cars."

Drew Gilmore was working in gas and oil leasing in the Southern Tier last winter when Lyjha Wilton



Drew Gilmore

invited him to come back to Rochester and help launch Boulder Realty.

He jumped at the chance. "I was looking for a change," said Drew. "I wanted to get back home. It seemed like we were both at the right place at the right time to get it going."

The two men have known each other for over a decade, and are now related by marriage: Lyjha married Drew's cousin Jillian. Drew previously worked for Lyjha remodeling apartments and helping to build

Lyjha's other business, Boulder Coffee Company.

Readers who attended the recent Boulderfest will remember Drew as the festival's emcee. "I introduced all the acts," Drew said, "and kept everybody entertained throughout the weekend."

Drew grew up in Hilton and graduated from Hilton High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in business from SUNY Brockport. He is a licensed real estate agent and a member of the Greater Rochester Association of Realtors.

The major focus of Boulder Realty will be the South Wedge and surrounding areas. "But we'll take listings anywhere," said Drew.

Drew believes that in-law Lyjha's experience in buying houses will make the firm attractive to first-time home buyers. Most of their clients are either buying their first multi-family house, or their first home for themselves.

"We can help them make the right decision, make sure it's a good investment for them," Drew said.

He hopes to carry over the relaxed atmosphere of Boulder Coffee Co. into the new Boulder Realty.

"Our whole idea is to take real estate out of a stuffy board room, and discuss your wants and needs over a bagel and a cup of coffee," Drew said.

Boulder Realty, 100 Alexander St. Phone 202-9819. On the web at www.BoulderRealtyRochester.com.

The *Rocblox* guys, **Jon McCone** and **Pete Zizzi**, have been busy since we featured them last year in our June issue. The company merged in August with *National Glass Block*, a locally owned company with a 20-year history.

"We bought a huge book of business and a very good reputation which we hope to continue to grow," says the energetic Pete. Jon has been running the day-to-day operation, while Pete helps out with marketing. Another partner, Tom O'Callaghan, helps with corporate operations.

"It's exciting to actually own it," said Jon, who has been working at the National site for the past eight months. "We're doing ten times the business we used to do at *Rocblox*." A team of workers does installations, while Jon coordinates sales, maintains inventory, picks up merchandise, and makes deliveries.

Though National is located on Chili Avenue, most of the firm's customers are in the South Wedge, Pete says. They recently completed an installation at Postler and Jaekle at the corner of South and Hickory.

National Glass Block, 966 Chili Ave. Phone 436-4030.

Photos by Mike Fleche

South Wedge Dental Group

Joseph DiDonato III
DDS

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ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY will hold a Foot and Hair Clinic on Oct. 21, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Podiatrist **Dr. Paul Merkel** and hair stylist **Alane Coia** and others volunteers, ages 10-80, will offer their time and services to the

Harley School and Brighton H.S. Debbie Sigrist, who helps organize the day, says the foot massages "offer comfort and connection" for men often marginalized by society.

Other clinic days include Dec. 2, January 27 and March 9, 2008. For

more information, call 235-6162 or 663-5591.

PAC-TAC is a great opportunity to explore the neighborhood while contributing to the safety of the community. Everyone is invited to participate in the monthly walks through the heart of the South Wedge. For more information, please contact **Robert Lauterbach** at rbauterbach@gmail.com.

HIGHLAND BREAST IMAGING AND WOMEN'S HEALTH PARTNERSHIP is offering free mammograms to women 40 or older who have little or no health insurance. Their annual **Breast Cancer Awareness Screening Day** is scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. - noon. Parking is free and refreshments will be provided. A Reiki practitioner will be on hand to provide free 10-minute Reiki sessions after your mammogram. Call 487-3300 to make an appointment in advance. Screenings will be held at the Breast Imaging Center's Henrietta location at 500 Red Creek Dr., Suite 130.

THE NIGHTGALLERY @ CONDÉ PHOTOGRAPHY at 650 South Avenue has two exhibits scheduled in the coming months. The Repard'spective offers 20 years

of Rochester's most prolific artist, Ed Repard and runs October 5 through November 23. The Christmas Show, described by Conde, as "more Santas than you can shake a stick at" runs November 30 through December 23 on Friday nights. For more information, visit <http://www.condephotography.com>

The Highland Branch Library, 971 South Avenue, will present two story times for children this fall. **"B is for Babies"** presents stories, lap games & bouncing rhymes for children 5 to 23 months (Tuesdays 10 a.m. through October 30). **Toddler Storytime** is a program designed especially for 2 year olds and their parents (Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.) September 25 through October 30. Call 428-8206 to register.

The **BUSINESS ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTH WEDGE AREA** (BASWA) welcomed a new board recently: President **Chris Jones** (Historic Houseparts), Vice President **John Fanning** (Solera Wine Bar) and Treasurer **Phillip Duquette** (Premier Pastry). One current project will convert old parking meter posts into bike racks. The posts are targeted for a public art project similar to one in Syracuse visit www.downtown-syracuse.com to see what the possibilities are. BASWA is also working with the **George Eastman House** on plans to bring a classic movie festival to the Highland Bowl next summer. To volunteer for one of BASWA's ongoing projects, e-mail chris@historichouseparts.com.



Antonio Carter, a sophomore at West Irondequoit High School, helped out SWPC over the summer, landscaping around the office and beautifying South Avenue and Hamilton Street.

Photo: Nancy O'Donnell

syracuse.com to see what the possibilities are. BASWA is also working with the **George Eastman House** on plans to bring a classic movie festival to the Highland Bowl next summer. To volunteer for one of BASWA's ongoing projects, e-mail chris@historichouseparts.com.

The State of the Sector Conference will take place on Saturday, November 3. Developers within the sector are invited to speak about their projects. A Q&A session will take place during a poster sessions at lunchtime. The afternoon will offer seminars on community building. The conference is made possible by a \$1800 NeighborGood grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

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Volunteer Alane Coia prepares to give a guest a new haircut. Photos courtesy of Debbie Sigrist

Volunteer RN performs foot care on a guest after his feet are soaked and massaged. Guest's feet are also checked for sores, dryness and areas that would benefit from massage.



homeless and those in need in a day of health and healing. In addition, many area churches fund this event and donate much needed socks. Volunteers include students from the

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Cypress-Linden Block Party Celebrates Clubs 31st Year

By Kaseedee Jermain

On Saturday, August 18th the Annual Cypress-Linden Block Party was held. Despite the chilly temperatures approximately 100 neighbors attended this widely enjoyed event. This was the 31st year of the annual party. Residents of all ages attended, and enjoyed meeting

new people and getting to know their neighbors a bit more. We were happy to see that there were more children and young people participating this year. We had a cook out, stereo music, organized children's activities (thanks to Gymboree Play and Music) and the usual very popular raffle. As in the past, raffle prizes were donated by local South Wedge businesses.

We would like to thank the South Wedge Planning Commission for their assistance and a "Special Thanks" goes to the Rochester Area Community Foundation for their "Neighborhood Grant" which helped fund the annual event. Also, a huge thanks to the Cypress Street and Linden Street neighbors whose volunteer efforts made this party happen. ▲

BASWA Brings Monthly Art & Music Events to the South Wedge

By Chris Jones

BASWA (Business Association of the South Wedge Area) is launching a "Third Thursdays" monthly celebration of art & music in the South Wedge neighborhood. The series began on Sept. 20 and will continue through December. Throughout the evening music played around town. In Nathaniel Square Tom Gravino and the U of R acapella group *Midnight Ramblers* entertained the crowd. *Meddlesome Meddlesome Meddlesome Bells* and Ian Downey is *Famous*

performed in Star Alley, next to Lux Lounge. Many South Avenue area businesses participated with exhibits by local artists: Equal Grounds, (paintings by Thomas Sommerville), Lux Lounge Art (works by artists Michael Ford, Lorraine Bohonos, Jay Lincoln, Aaron Burto), Boulder Coffee (Art by local artist Colleen Shriner). Thread, (paintings by local artists Adam Francey, Collette Watts Quaglia, and Katie Johnson). Other activities included Dr Huppo's video *Hippos & Friends* at Boulders and Henna Rising worked its magic at the Coffee Connection.

Music also swirled around town at the South Wedge Farmer's Market at Boulder Coffee and The Keg. Beale Street Blues Band welcomed *Delta Blues'* acoustic guitarist Gordon Munding.

Other businesses joined in the autumn celebration: Historic Houseparts, Caverly's Irish Pub, Solera Wine Bar, John's Tex Mex, All Around Town Consignment Boutique, Black Pearl Café.

And more is on the way... Weather permitting, musicians will perform at the Kiosk at Gregory & South, and at the small plaza at

continued on page 12

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All Around Town Consignment Boutique offers fashions easy on your wallet and the environment

By Nancy O'Donnell

Elena Koenigsberg believed there are a few more choices in dressing well between "Madison Avenue and Wal-Mart" and that



Elena Koenigsberg loves clothes.
Photo: Nancy O'Donnell

Upscale."

"I spent a lot of time wandering around suburban consignment shops and I found good pieces, some with the tags still on them."

All Around Town offers "current fashion with good quality workmanship" for both men and women. Koenigsberg was quick to emphasize that her stock is the product of intelligent decisions--"it's not the label but the look."

The shop's consignment merchandise is brought in also by "people changing their closets or cycling through sizes or styles that no longer fit their needs." When items are sold, the proceeds are split between the consignor and

shoes. Men's labels include Calvin Klein and Armani.

A grand opening is planned for early October. For more informa-

GRAND OPENING

Oct. 12 @ 5 p.m.

*Ribbon cutting ceremony
with community officials,
refreshments and fashion
show!*

tion, stop in and ask!
All Around Town Consignment Boutique, 732 South Avenue, Telephone 314.4023. Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 5:30 until 8:00PM and Saturdays from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM. ▲

recycling clothing is good for the environment. She's combined the two theories when she opened her brand new South Avenue business, All Around Town Consignment Boutique. Her shop moved into the 1920's art deco storefront (former home of Wild Wools) on Sept. 1.

The Pittsford resident has spent the last 20 years in sales and marketing along with forays in a few business ventures like making gift baskets. But as "an avid consumer" of high fashion, she said she finally found the right business.

"I love clothes," said Koenigsberg, who looks for substantial style over trendy avant-garde toss aways.

In building her stock, she culled fashion from her own closet as well as farther afield and she plans to live up to her tagline, "Always

the shop.

"It's a good system for recycling and also offering a financial benefit to those who are value-minded," said Koenigsberg. "I have been very fortunate to find people who bring in the contemporary styles and variety which shoppers look for."

Koenigsberg looked around the area before she settled on opening a shop in the Wedge. She credits especially help from the City of Rochester and SWPC in developing her business.

The shop's interior is decorated with actual photographs of Rochester from the 50's and 60's. Soft jazz music accompanies clothes shopping. On a recent visit, women's labels included Jones NY, Liz Claiborne, Gap, Banana Republic, Chicos, along with some Etienne Aigner and Anne Klein

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Boulderfest 2007

July 27-29

Boulder Coffee Co. did it again! The three-day event attracted a huge crowd to the Alexander Street café from all around the area. Music, arts and crafts, exhibitions by local capoeira dancers and much more added to the South Wedge's growing reputation of being an entertainment destination.

Bands included *One World Tribe, These United States with Cartright, Journey of Jasmine, Nate Coffeey Band, Eddie Nebula and*

the Plague, Snmmmm, The Lobster Quadrille, Smock, St. Phillip's Escalator, Setting Sun, Quitzow, Brian Rath, Nora Kaminski, Matt Cross, Gregory Paul, Baby Shivers Boutique, Julia Nunes, Dan Ball, Andrew Marks, Soups of the Day, Aloha, Gaylord, UV Rays, The Flour City Knuckleheads, Triglactagon, Brokedown, Walri, Delta Phonics, The Labradore Hawks,

Ian Downey is Famous, The Kitchen Sinks, Blizzard, Devall Music, Carbonic, Roger Kuhn-Rochester Slim, Amateur Radio Club.

Planning begins for Boulderfest 2008!

Photos courtesy of Katherine Bubacz



WEDGESTOCK 2007

August 26

Locals and visitors from neighboring streets and towns came to see what an extraordinary annual meeting can be at the second annual Wedgestock. The free event included the music of *Voices of Clouds* and *The Buddhahood*, events for kids, and provided lots of information about how The South Wedge Planning Committee is transforming our urban village into “the” place to live and play.

Jenny Gaul, Sue Morgan, and their daughters Katy, 4, Elinor 6 mos. Listen to The Buddhahead perform. Photo Nancy O'Donnell



Some 400 neighbors (near and far) flocked to the hills of the Highland Bowl for an afternoon of music. Photo: Johannes Bockwoldt



Eilleen Thomas and MacClure Vivian staff the SWPC table. Photo: Nancy O'Donnell



Dallas Andeson, a Cornhill resident, soaks up the sounds. Photo: Nancy O'Donnell



Christine Lembke and Charles Edward came over from Park Avenue to catch the Wedgestock vibe. Photo: Nancy O'Donnell



The Buddhahead roused the crowd with drums and sax and more. Photo: Brian Pincelli



Loekie Windig dances with her friend Monisha, 8, from Greece. Photo: Johannes Bockwoldt



L-R: Michael Lachesky, Penfield; Duane Piede, Walworth; Deb Zakrzewski, Walworth; Mildren Anderson, Averill Avenue. Photo: Johannes Bockwoldt



Owen Dennis, 7, Photo: Johannes Bockwoldt



Left to right: Gabrielle, 19, Emily, 15, Erin, 22, and mother Debbi Brind'Amour, Middlesex, N.Y. Photo: Johannes Bockwoldt



Isabelle LaNasa, 4 shows her paintings while Ayden Chappel, 3, gets ready to paint. Photo: Mike Fleche



Sam, 2, and mother Lily from Brighton. Photo: Nancy O'Donnell



Henna diva Robin Jaeckal introduces Net Director Peter Saxe to body decoration. Photo: Nancy O'Donnell



Cleo McDermott, 3. Photo: Johannes Bockwoldt



The Reader family—Chris, Zoe, and Kirsten walked from their home on Rockingham to enjoy the scene. Photo: Nancy O'Donnell

Heartwood Construction Puts Vision into Space

Story by Mike Fleche

Above his hangs a photo of the Eiffel Tower viewed from below, so that the image forms a rosette.

Scott, owner of Heartwood Construction, loves what he does, and he relishes the details. The name Heartwood—referring to a tree's innermost layer of wood—"conveys



Scott A. Nault. Photo: Mike Fleche

that love in a structural word," he says.

"I'm pretty passionate about what I do," the builder said. "I care about the small stuff—to me it's detail from the day we put the shovel in the ground until the day we close the project out."

The construction company he started in 2003 moved to 50 Mount Hope, between Comfort Street and Byron Street, in June of last year.

Heartwood is one of a handful of companies that bid regularly on façade-grant projects, Scott says. "They're challenging projects with limited funds, but we try to give our clients a nice product."

Business doesn't stop when they're remodeling a façade, so it's part of Scott's job to find a way to give customers access. "To minimize the adverse impact of construction is really important to the owners," says Scott. "We have to coordinate renewal of the storefronts and keep these guys going."

Scott prides himself on being accommodating. "You have to maintain flexibility, allowing the client's input, even to saving an architectural element that might not be part of the design," he says.

The new company is making a name for itself at the city of Rochester. When city projects are announced, "people at the city will make a point to include us on the

bid-list," he says. Recently, he's just received an e-mail note from a city official congratulating him on completing a façade-grant project and inviting him to a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Mayor.

"It's very gratifying to have our work appreciated," Scott said.

They average three to four jobs simultaneously, and jobs can last anywhere from two weeks to six months.

All this makes Scott Nault a busy man. "About 99% of the time I am on site with every job at least once a day," he says. "My customers like it. My guys don't always like it when I show up at a site and strap on a tool belt and say, 'I'm working with you for the day.'"

Originally from Michigan, Scott got a degree in physics and engineering from Michigan Tech. He did "high steel"—high elevation structural steel—for a construction firm in Seattle, then changed careers and worked as an insurance underwriter in Chicago.

But he missed the "hands-on" element. "It was not as physically gratifying as being on site and having a direct hand in putting something together," Scott said.

Scott came to Rochester in 1988. While working as project manager for a big realty company, he started his own small construction company on the side—SANault Construction. "I really worked two full-time jobs for a while," Scott said. In addition to residential work, he started doing some commercial projects, including several Soyata Computer stores.

In 2003, he left the realty company to start Heartwood Construction, and was finally able to focus full time on developing his own business.

Right now Heartwood is doing an addition to a historic house in Mendon. "We're marrying new construction techniques with a 150-year-old cobblestone farmhouse," he says. "It's tricky. That's one reason the architects call us—we have the patience and finesse to make things work."

What's good for the client is good for the business, Scott finds. "The relationships I have with architects, homeowners and clients build business."

Satisfied clients are often repeat customers. "Clients get to know us

and they hang on to us," Scott says. "We've been working at Catholic Family Center for about a year. We started one project, which led to another, which led to another."

He's excited about possibilities in developing the South Wedge, and Mount Hope Avenue in particular. "This area has huge potential. I'm anticipating and hoping that this area is resurrected into something

unique."

He imagines a design like the "River Walk" in San Antonio, with shops and hostels and restaurants right on the waterway. "This water-corridor here has so much potential," he says. "I would love to get on a water-taxi in Pittsford and take it down the canal to the river for a weekend, stay in a hotel by the water."

With the right blend of architecture and shops, the back street of the river could have a historical look—"very Currier and Ives"—to soften the city skyline, Scott says.

He envisions the project. "I'd love to be a part of it."

Heartwood Construction and Property Service Inc., 50 Mount Hope Ave. Phone 232-4750. ▲

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RCN Celebrates 150 Years of 'Putting Children First'



Early students of the Industrial School of Rochester (now RCN) circa 1890. Photo courtesy of Rochester Childfirst Network.

by Kim Hayes

Few organizations can boast a 150 year legacy! Rochester Childfirst Network (RCN), 941 South Avenue has done just that, celebrating a sesquicentennial year of service.

Incorporated in 1857, the organization was founded in the days of horse and buggy. Originating as an orphanage, RCN is now the third oldest early childhood agency in the nation.

Sesquicentennial celebrations included a schoolwide birthday

party attended by Senator Joseph Robach, the release of a new children's book dedicated to RCN, and a sculpture created by local artist Judith Van Ness. Also in celebration, RCN was honored by a joint proclamation by the city and county government, a historical book written by Ruth Rosenberg Naparsteck, the City of Rochester historian and hosted an alumni and friends strawberry festival. Board President Paula S. Howk and Betsy Garrett led the 150th celebration.

Started by philanthropic women in the 1800's to offer poor and orphaned children a warm and safe place to grow and learn, RCN was originally incorporated the Industrial School of Rochester in April 1857, later renamed Rochester Children's Nursery,

and in 2006 changed its name to Rochester Childfirst Network. RCN offers accredited early childhood education and care to children



Jessica Finner of Rochester Childfirst Network greeted visitors to the History Fair Sept 17, and showed off a new book by Marsha Hayles detailing 150 years of the school's history.

levels. Executive Director Marsha Dumka serves on the Early Childhood Development committee, the Monroe County Child Care Advisory Council and is the current President of the Board of the Rochester Association for the Education of Young Children, (RAEYC). She also serves on the SouthWedge Planning Board of Directors.

What's new for the 151st? Marsha Dumka sums it up, "Looking forward we remain committed to quality early care and education and school age programming. And we will continue to advocate for funding that supports quality centers and offers subsidies to help families pay for care."

RCN's Mission and Vision

RCN is a not-for-profit agency dedicated to advancing the quality of early education and care in Western New York, through leadership, advocacy, and innovative direct services to children. Our vision is that every child grows up safe and strong, able to achieve his or her full potential.

Kim Hayes is the Director of Development at the Rochester Childfirst Network. ▲

ages 18 months to 12 years. Their school age youth program was the first program in Western New York to receive the prestigious National After-school Accreditation.

Services today have expanded to include preschool special education services and family childcare training. In addition, RCN is a leader in the early childhood community, serving as a mentor to other centers, and offering leadership and advocacy at the state and local



Matt Mitchell is on the road with his Wiernermobile, but before he headed out he stopped off to say goodbye to his friends at Caverly's on South Avne. From left are South Wedge residents T.J. Lupiani, Neal Hogan, Liam Scathill and Matt Mitchell.

History Fair Draws a Late Summer Crowd



Arleen Oliver of Cranberry Creek Herbs filled her table with crafts and fragrant sachets at the annual History Fair, held at the Historic German House Sept. 17. Among her handmade primitives and folk art are "penny rugs"—small scraps of material decorated with raised "pennies" in contrasting colors. On the web at www.cranberrycreekherbs.com.

Lovely end-of-summer weather brought a good crowd to the Regional History Fair, Sept. 17, at the German House on Gregory Street. Some were attracted to the antiques and unique collectibles available, and others for the lectures and videos. Presentations on a variety of topics included local

author Rose O'Keefe, The Frederick Douglass Family in SE Rochester; Henrietta town historian Helen Elam, Antoinette Brown Blackwell; Fred Armstrong's video, The End of the Line: Rochester's Subway; Fred Amato, Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse; Dr. Rufino C. Pabico, Philippine-American Relations during

WWII; and last, but definitely not least, Nancy Rosin, Images from the Harold Lara Photo Collection.

O'Keefe expressed gratitude for the authors and vendors who participated in the event: William Andrews; Animatus Studio; Susan B. Anthony House; Antique Postcards; APA-HiP; Linda Bartash-Dawley; Sarah M. Watts Bolam & Thomas J. Bolam; Ethelene Boykins; Canal Society of NYS; Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse/Sector 1; Corn Hill Neighbors Assoc.; Cranberry Creek Herbs; Friends of Ganondagan; Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery; Vickie Fumia Antiques; Genesee Country Village & Museum; Greece Historical Society; Hedonist Artisan Chocolates; Historic Brighton; Historic Houseparts; Yvonne Jordan Antiques; Lift Bridge Book Shop; Wayne Mahood; Mercury Posters; Museum Photographics; Polish Pottery; Rochester Childfirst Network; Rochester Museum & Science Center; Rose O'Keefe Sampler Records; South East Area Coalition; and South East Arts Development.

B.A.S.W.A., The Home Room and S.W.P.C., the City of Rochester Photo Lab and The Keg at the German House also helped promote the Regional History Fair. ▲

Planning for the Future?

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In Memoriam

The Wedge was saddened to hear of the sudden death of Anthony E. "Tony" Cavagnaro, who as leader of the band Buddhahood made two Wedgestocks truly "more than your average annual meeting". He most recently appeared at this summer's Wedgestock (photos on page 7).

Cavagnaro started a band called *Rub the Buddha* in the early 90s that grew into *The Buddhahood*, a lively band that plays concerts of world music, reggae, calypso, samba, funk, blues and rock 'n roll.

A musical tribute to the life and music of this consummate musician is planned for later this fall. He is survived by his wife Jan Mater-Cavagnaro and 3-year-old son Calvin Alcide.

Community Builders

continued from page 4

A Toastmaster club is a "learn-by-doing" workshop in which men and women sharpen their speaking skills and presentation techniques in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere. Life Learners Toastmasters

Club welcomes you to join us on the first and third Saturday from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Legacy located behind Mercy High School at 100 McAuley Road (off Blossom Road). Contact us or simply drop in.

For more info, call 314-8323 and 734-6704 and website <http://>

New York Main Street

continued from page 1

reas, from industrial businesses to homes that were converted to retail use," said Helen Hogan, executive director of the South East Area Coalition (SEAC). "Part of it has historic buildings, part has multi-family houses."

In the coming months, SWPC, SEAC and the South Clinton Merchants Association will host one or more informational meetings for property owners who might be interested in applying for NYMS funds.

Once a contract with NY State is finalized, the application and selection process will take place. More information will be made available closer to the application period.

The application process is competitive. Representatives of the ESCAPE Committee, which is

comprised of South Clinton Avenue stakeholders, will review applications and select the building owners who ultimately receive grants.

SWPC received a similar award in 2006 for the Gregory to Linden Street end of South Clinton Ave. The three of the projects selected for funding in that round are in various stages of a mandatory review by the NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. One project has started construction.

Between anticipated South Clinton Avenue infrastructure and roadway improvements in 2008, and Main Street construction along the entire avenue, it is obvious that exciting revitalization continues in the South Wedge area.

To learn more, contact Eileen Thomas at 256-1740, ext. 103. ▲

Neighbor's Council Meetings

This is just a reminder that the next Neighbor's Council meeting is Tuesday, October 2nd at 6:00 at Boulder Coffee on the corner of Alexander and S. Clinton.

Normally Neighbor's Council meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month. The October meeting was changed due to a conflict with Gale. Here is the schedule for the rest of the year. All meeting times are 6:00 pm.

Tuesday, October 2nd
at Boulder Coffee

Wednesday, November 7th
at Equal Grounds

Wednesday, December 5th
at Caverly's Tavern



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Winterizing Made Easy



“Tool Tips”

By Ed Meyers,
SWPC Tool Librarian

Outdoor Leaking faucet

Do you have an outdoor faucet that leaks around the handle when you turn it on? It's possible to stop the drips with a few handy steps.

Step one is to tighten the nut with a wrench or pliers. If the leak persists go inside and turn the water off. You may have one master turn off at the water inlet to your home or a separate shut-off for that particular faucet. After the water is turned off, remove the screw that attaches the handle and unscrew the nut. You should be able to pull off the old packing washer and take it to the hardware store for an exact replacement. Older faucets may have a wad of string called a “packing”, instead of a packing washer. If so, pick up a new packing (graphite coated string) at the hardware store, unwind the old packing and wind on the new string clockwise. After assembly, the packing nut should compress it tightly. In worst cases you may have to wind on one layer, tighten the nut and repeat the process till the space fills in completely. Reopen the water shut off, and you're in business.

How to store gasoline

Safe storage of gasoline for the lawn motor or other gas engine applications is a must if you want to keep your home and family safe.

Never store gas in glass or un-approved containers and only fill the containers 95 % of the way to allow for expansion. It's basic but

KEEP THE CAP TIGHT ON THE CONTAINER and store the container on the floor in a place where children can't reach it in a garage or shed rather than in the house. **Make sure that it's stored at least 50 feet away from pilot lights for home heating and gas hot water.** If you have gas left over for storage, always add a fuel stabilizer right away. Stabilizers contain antioxidants and biocides to prevent compounds and microbial growth from forming on the gas.

Garage door fixes

If the door track rests on damp concrete and has become rusty mark the bottom of the track and cut off a half inch. Clean the track with mineral spirits, wire brush the rusty areas and spray paint areas as required.

Attach a new weather seal to the weather strip attached to the bottom of the door. If it is torn or completely flattened, replace with a new piece. Home centers sell two types: a nail on version for wood doors and a slide in bulb type for steel doors. Next, lube the hinges and rollers with WD 40 or similar dry lube. It's not necessary to lube the roller tracks. A little maintenance now will keep your garage door working smoothly all winter!

Thanks from the Tool Guy

Tool membership has increased and is much appreciated. We stand ready to serve your needs and welcome frequent visits!

New Tool Library Hours

The Corn Hill-South Wedge Tool Library hours have changed to better serve our customers and help you get an earlier start on your weekend projects.

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Tuesday & Thursday 4-6 p.m.

Why buy when you can borrow?

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SWPC Community Calendar

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Noon @ 224 Mt Hope Ave

Monday, October 8
Monday, November 5
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

Wednesday, October 17
Wednesday, November 21
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

Monday, October 8
Monday, November 12
5:30 pm @ 846 S Clinton Ave.

Wednesday, October 3
Wednesday, November 7
6:00 pm @ TBA

Thursday, October 18
Thursday, November 15
10:00 am @ TBA

Thursday, October 18
Thursday, November 15
6:00 pm @ 846 S Clinton Ave.

Wednesday, October 24
Wednesday, November 28
6:00 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

Wednesday, August 22, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 26
7:30 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

Thursday, October 11
Thursday, November 8
6:00 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.



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From the desk of Executive Director Robert Boyd

The face of SWPC has been changing on Mt. Hope! First, a bright mum garden was created on the corner of Mt. Hope and Hamilton. Then, on September 1, 30 students from the University of Rochester came to help SWPC for Wilson Days. Over 30 tons of an asphalt gravel mixture was used to rebuild the parking lot. Some students worked on preparing the front of the building for painting. (If you want to help finish the painting, please give me a call.)

Involving more people leads to an even better community, and the role of **Community Engagement Coordinator** is an important one. Allison Clark, who joins SWPC on a part-time basis in that role, will help to support the Neighbors Council and work

to engage more members of the community in our mission.

Special thanks goes to board member Gale Lynch and everyone else who worked to make Wedgestock, our annual board meeting, another exceptional event. (See pg. 7 photos of the event.)



The Highland Hospital Parking Ramp design team has made progress, and a solid design

submitted appears to be workable. If you would like to take a look, please stop by the office. When there is a more final design available, the Wedge Newspaper will publish it.

The City has completed a **Housing Study**, and they are developing a new housing policy. One aspect of the policy will be to target specific sections of the city for additional investment to make it better. I am on a task force examining the criteria for how that will be done.

New ideas and new people are important to grow our organization. I would be happy to have coffee with you and discuss your ideas and how you can become involved. Please call me at 256-1740, Ext 102. ▲



Wilson Days volunteers with Bob Boyd. Photo: Brian Pincelli

THIRD THURSDAYS
ART & MUSIC
in the
SOUTH WEDGE

Art & Music Events

continued from page 4

Sanford & South. In November, a Christmas Tree Lighting celebration will take place at Nathaniel Square. In December, look for music at Nathaniel Square and carolers & roasting chestnuts in the other locations. BASWA will then take a deserved rest through the rest of the winter months and pick the series up again in May 2008. ▲



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