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 Celebrates 30  
 Years on S. Clinton

# The WEDGE

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTH WEDGE

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 to Food Key  
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 Executive  
 Director Bob  
 Boyd Reports

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

## Looking Back— Looking Ahead

By Bob Boyd, SWPC Director

It's the time of year for reflection. What better time to reflect on the past year and "imagine" what 2008 could be like?

In the area of housing, SWPC worked with 23 families to make improvements to their homes with Residential Assistance Program, Affordable Housing Corporation and Federal Home Loan Bank funds. SWPC completed the complete rehabilitation of 111 and 113 Hamilton Street into two new, affordable rental housing units. Ron Maier completed the rehabilitation of the Lauterbach Building on South Avenue adding five new apartments. Howard Konar completed the rehabilitation of four new units in the Abeles Building. SWPC Board member Lyjha Wilton continued to improve Alexander Street. Building on the momentum, many other homeowners and landlords made improvements to their properties throughout the neighborhood.

The City of Rochester completed a Housing Study which identified The Wedge as a "transitional" area with potential for growth and improvement.

My dream for housing in 2008? River Park Commons' transformation begins and the proposed project for South Avenue between Gregory and Hamilton becomes real. SWPC completes numerous projects, including CHDO homes (including 11 Nelson St), a new, fully accessible house at 122 Ham-



**Head to Head** Rochester artist Pepsy Kettavong gives finishing touches to the statue of city founder Nathaniel Rochester, to be erected in Nathaniel Square Park at the corner of South Avenue and Alexander Street. In November, the statue was shipped to Kansas City to be cast in bronze. The finished sculpture, still crated, should be placed in the park later this month. An official unveiling ceremony will be held in the spring. Photo: Doug Stevens.

## SONYMA to Refinance At-Risk Mortgages

The State of New York Mortgage Authority (SONYMA) announced a new program to help homeowners who have risky mortgages to avoid possible foreclosure.

"Keep the Dream" is a mortgage re-financing program. Homeowners may be eligible if they have adjustable rate mortgages or interest-only mortgages where the interest rate has increased recently, or will increase in the near future.

Homeowners must be able to show that they are, or will be, unable to pay their mortgage when the interest rate increases. Homeowners who are less than 60 days behind in their mortgage payment may also be eligible.

In addition to having a risky

mortgage, homeowners must meet other eligibility requirements. The must have incomes of 125% of the area median income, or less. They must own and live in a one-to four-family house, and attend a homeowner education course.

A "Keep the Dream" loan can be up to 100% of the value of the home. Proceeds from the loan can be used to pay prepayment penalties and closing costs, and to liquidate second mortgages. "Keep the Dream" loans cannot be used to pay other debt or expenses, however.

In the Rochester region, two lenders are participating in this SONYMA program - M & T Bank and Nothnagle Home Securities Corp.

**For more information contact:**

**M & T Bank** 1-800-272-3112 or 1-585-258-8355

**Nothnagle** 1-585-461-4110

**SONYMA** 1-800-382-4663 or www.nyhomes.org

## Hamilton Street House Ready for Renters

By Brian Pincelli

SWPC took a significant step in October towards providing quality affordable housing in the South Wedge with the completion of the rehabilitation of 111-1113 Hamilton Street. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held October 26 attended by Mayor Robert Duffy, Commissioner Julio Vasquez, Senator Joseph Robach, Alma Balonon-Rosen from Enterprise Community Partners and Thomas Van Nortwick from NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), attended. Each emphasized the significance of the project in the community and the importance of partnerships

in community development and revitalization.

The Hamilton Street project involved renovation of a two-family home vacant for over five years. Improvements include new tan hardiplank siding with brick red and forest green trim, plus new windows and doors. Interior improvements include a new furnace and water heater for each unit, refinished oak hardwood floors, and completely remodeled kitchens and bathrooms.

SWPC thanks all of its partners in this project including DHCR, Enterprise Community Partners, the City of Rochester and especially general contractor Henry Isaacs and his crew who did an outstanding job. ▲

## And the Winner IS--- Our Neighborhood!

By Nancy O'Donnell

Go ahead bask in the glow. The greater South Wedge area swept The City Newspaper's Readers' Choice Awards 2007 getting winning votes citywide for "best neighborhood" along with thunderous applause for individual businesses, parks and persons including feline ("Princess" the Cinema Cat).

We've known it all along, but it's nice to know hundreds of others agree.

**And the envelope, please.**

**BEST COFFEE:**

Boulder Coffee, Alexander Street

**BEST WINE SELECTION:**

Solera Wine Bar, South Ave.

**BEST HAPPY HOUR:**

Lux Lounge, South Ave.

**BEST MEAL UNDER \$10:**

John's Tex Mex, South Ave.

**BEST MEN'S CLOTHING STORE:**

Thread, South Ave.

**BEST WOMEN'S CLOTHING STORE:**

Thread, South Ave.

**BEST SECONDHAND CLOTHING STORE:**

Godiva's, South Ave.

**BEST STRAIGHT BAR:**

Lux Lounge, South Ave.

**BEST PARK:**

Highland

**BEST PLAYGROUND:**

Meigs Park at Linden Street

**BEST CHINESE RESTAURANT:**

Ming's Take Out, So. Clinton

**BEST INDIAN RESTAURANT:**

India House, So. Clinton, Ave.

**BEST PLACE FOR A LAST DATE:**

Mount Hope Cemetery

**BEST OUTDOOR MAKE-OUT SPOT:**

Highland Park

**BEST CURE FOR CABIN FEVER:**

Highland Park's Lamberton Conservatory

**BEST LOCAL WEBSITE:**

The Isotopes (o.k. they might not live here, but they play Boulderfest)

**BEST ORIGINAL BAND:**

The Buddhahood (They play the Wedge including Wedgestock)

**BEST MOVIE**

**SNUGGLE BUDDY:**

Cinema Theatre's cat "Princess"



This two-family home at 111-113 Hamilton St. is available for rental. For info, call Brian Pincelli at 256-1740, ext. 106 (bpincelli@swpc.org). Photo: Brian Pincelli.

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# HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE

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# Neighborhood Safety for Homes and Apartments

By Allison Clark

Anyone who lives in an urban area knows that personal and property safety are ongoing issues. The holiday season always means an increase in crime, but crime prevention experts say there are a number of ways that you can keep yourself and your property safe.

Keeping yourself safe when driving or walking through the neighbor-

hood is possible if you remember these tips. First, stay alert. Always be aware of your surroundings and people around you. Don't allow yourself to become so distracted that you lose track of what is happening around you. Remember to act calm and confident in all situations. Stand tall, keep your head up and appear in control. Criminals tend to prey on those who appear weak and unable to fight back. Make

quick eye contact with people to let them know that you see them and could identify them if necessary. Always remember to trust your instincts. If a situation feels wrong, it probably is. People who appear out of place or are engaged in activities that are uncommon in your neighborhood will often set off warning bells that should not be ignored. Get away from suspicious activity and call 911 to report it. Never be afraid to call the police. Remember, always remove yourself to a safe place, then call the police.

Whenever possible, walk with a friend. Criminals are less likely to approach groups. Avoid back alleys near parking lots or other poorly lit areas. If you carry a purse

the problems associated with allowing "homeless" bottle-collectors to have free reign in our neighborhoods. Many of those folks use the opportunity to go door to door and help themselves to objects of opportunity - in other words, they take what is available in addition to the bottles and cans that they may be taking. There are other neighbors who may store their returnables on porches, and they are summarily stolen by the bottle collectors. By allowing folks to take your bottles and cans you unknowingly facilitate these other crimes.

Always remember, should you come upon someone on your property who doesn't belong - please call 911 to report them and do so by providing a good description and direction of travel so that officers will have a better time locating these offenders. Remember in all safety issues, never be afraid to call 911 to report suspicious activity or any crime that has occurred. Keeping all these tips in mind will help you stay safe and keep your property safe this holiday season.



when walking down the streets, carry one with a strap that goes across your chest and firmly grasp it with one hand. Carry your wallet in your front pocket rather than your back pocket. When driving, keep your windows closed and doors locked. Be suspicious of anyone walking up to your vehicle. Remember to never leave valuables or holiday gifts in plain sight in your car. Lock them in your trunk if you can't take them with you.

It is also important to keep your property safe. One of the best ways to do this is to be sure that your home and garage are properly secured. Install deadbolts on all entry doors. It is a simple process and can save you from burglaries. Be sure that window locks are also in good condition. Install motion sensing floodlights on all sides of your home and on your porch. Keep your shrubs and trees trimmed and away from windows and doors. Criminals often use these to hide before breaking into a home.

Tool Guy Ed Meyers from the SPWC tool library can help you with any of these home safety measures. Lighting and solid locks are one of the best ways to keep your property safe.

It is also important to remember

## Special tips for renters

It is important for renters to remember that there are ways to ensure that your rental is safe. While landlords are required to make sure that their rental properties meet safety codes, unfortunately not all landlords comply. There are a few things you can do as a renter to ensure your personal safety when at home.

The best thing you can do as a renter is to make sure that there are smoke detectors in each bedroom and in each hallway. Also, make sure that there is at least one carbon monoxide detector in your unit. Checking the batteries on a regular basis is one way that you can keep yourself safe. Don't leave it up to your landlord to check the batteries. If you don't have smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors, call your landlord. You can also contact your local fire station for a smoke detector.

Remember, don't leave your personal safety in the hands of someone else. Be proactive and remember that as a renter you are entitled to a safe place to live.

Includes contributions by Lt. Frank Churnetski and Bob Boyd. ▲



Community Partner



OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE SOUTH WEDGE  
South Wedge Planning Committee  
224 Mt. Hope Avenue • Rochester, New York 14620  
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The Wedge Newspaper, a not-for-profit newspaper, is published 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 local, state and national news that affect the area. It was first 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.

Articles in this paper do not necessarily reflect the view and/or 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](http://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.

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## Watch Out For Meters When Removing Snow and Ice >>

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Also, natural gas appliance chimneys and vents should also be kept free of accumulation to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.

## Use Generators Safely >>

- Operate your generator outdoors in a clean, dry, well-ventilated area.
- Make sure all electrical connections comply with National Electric Code.
- **NEVER** connect a generator to an existing wiring system without a double-pole, double-throw switch.
- **NEVER** overload your generator with too many appliances.
- **NEVER** let children play near a generator.

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by Mike Fleche

If you haven't been by **Tonja's Personal Touch** lately, stop and look at her display window. It's full of hats.



Tonja McNair Photo: Mike Fleche

"I've been getting a lot of raves about my window," says **Tonja McNair**. While we're talking, she gets a call from a man who just drove by. "The window grabbed me," a hat-lover tells her. "The hats are drawing me!" salon owner began to add merchandise about a year ago. "It's all about diversifying," says Tonja. "I started out with jewelry, and it was a natural jump to hats."

So what's the connection with hairstyling?

"It's all about fashion," the bubbly stylist asserts. "Hair is fashion."

Jewelry is fashion. Hats are fashion!"

Today she's sporting a patchwork bucket hat with a herringbone brim. "There's a plethora of styles available," she says. The display includes a leather driver's hat, a felt fedora, and brimmed Panama hats in different styles. "Women wear men's hats all the time," she says. "We have the versatility-- we can wear them and still look sharp."

For winter, she has luxury knit hats in solid colors for men, and knit caps for women in herringbone, houndstooth, prints and plaids. For serious cold weather, there are knit and fur trappers with earflaps.

Hats reflect the individual, Tonja says. "You make the hat." She often tells hat fanciers, "That hat never looked so good till you wore it."

**Headz-Up Hats**, at **Tonja's Personal Touch**, 674 South Ave. Phone 442-7680. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

One day last December, **April Daniels** and **Paul Ignatowski** were sitting in a Park Avenue café, watching an elderly woman struggle to walk her dog. And the idea for their new business, **Pets First**, was born.

"Initially it was for elderly and disabled people," April explained,



April Daniels and Paul Ignatowski with 'Maggie' Photo courtesy Pets First

"making sure their pets were exercised and taken to the groomer or the vet. Then it just grew from there."

Great nature lovers themselves, the couple has been involved in animal care in their travels around the world, volunteering at an elephant nature park in Thailand, and rescuing dogs in India and Central America.

In addition to their dog-walking and pet-taxi service, April and Paul provide pet care in the animal's own surroundings. "People travel a lot and they don't want to kennel their pets because it's very stressful for the animals," April said. "We found that pets are healthier and happier when they're cared for in their own home."

The new business is off to a good start. "We love it! It's just taking off," April says. In keeping with their commitment to charity, ten percent of the business proceeds are donated to a no-kill animal shelter.

**Pets First**. Telephone 284-3544. On the web at [www.pets-first-petsitting.com](http://www.pets-first-petsitting.com).

It all started a few years ago when **Lisa Taddeo**, of **Body & Face Day Spa**, needed some new spa equipment. Her husband spotted an ad in the paper—the address was Salon Paragon, 289 Gregory Street.

That's how Lisa met Paragon

owner Tammy Cruppe. So when Lisa wanted to move **Body & Face** from her Goodman Street location in September, she called Tammy.

Now the equipment is back at Salon Paragon. "We moved it out and moved it back in," Lisa jokes.

The spa now occupies a back room at Salon Paragon; the new arrangement is a plus for both parties. "It's been great," said Tammy. "We have more services to offer clients too, now that she's here."

Lisa loves the camaraderie. "We all get along very well," she said. "I feel like I've known them forever."

Clients of both appreciate the convenience, Lisa says. "If people want to get a haircut and a facial, they can get it at the same place." In addition to facials, she offers manicures and pedicures (natural nails only), and body-waxing.



Lisa Taddeo Photo: Mike Fleche

Her clients include men and women. "Body-waxing is becoming more popular for men," Lisa says.

**Body & Face Day Spa**, at Salon Paragon, 289 Gregory St. Phone 271-6610.

foods, with an emphasis on imported spices, like authentic Indian curry. Customers can choose from an assortment of fragrances



Taji wearing bati Photo: Mike Fleche

from the Middle East, meant to be burned in an electric burner. Many products are imported from India and Dubai.

The prepaid phone cards are big sellers, as families seek to keep in touch with kin in Africa.

On Saturdays, the store provides drinks and snacks for kids who attend the Islamic school at the recreation center at River Park Commons.

For Taji, who formerly lived at River Park Commons, the neighborhood is starting to feel like home. "I like the river and I like the people who live around here," Taji said. "There is much peace."

**Taji Mini Market**, 348 Mount Hope Ave. Telephone 232-6050. Open 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week. ▲

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**Manor Parkway Apartments**

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The ethnic mini-market at the corner of Mount Hope and Hickory Street has a new owner and a new name. **Bakar Taji**—known to friends simply as "Taji"—reopened the former **Heritage Foods** in February, calling it **Taji Mini Market**.

Taji, who lives with his family across the river in Corn Hill, was 14 when he came to the U.S. The family lived for a while in Washington, D.C., then moved to Rochester in 2001.

"We came to Rochester to be with family, as well as to be a part of the larger Somalian community," he said.

Taji must be one of the most youthful entrepreneurs in the South Wedge. The license over the counter is dated Feb. 21, his 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Younger brother Hamza, 18, also helps at the store.

The store sells African clothing, including the *bati*, a long dress for women or a long tunic for men, and the *dircaa* (pronounce dee-RAH), a long fancy dress for women with elaborated beading or decoration. Hand-made purses complete the outfit. There are also colored baskets for storing *injera*, the staple bread of Somalia.

Taji also carries international

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90-2 Manor Parkway ~ 473-0816

By Allison Clark

The River Park Commons Tenant Association honored Joann Thomas for her dedication and service to the South Wedge with a community recep-



River Park Commons residents congratulate Joann Thomas on 30 years of service. Photo: Allison Clark

tion on November 27. Joann, a South Wedge resident for 30 years is a South Wedge Planning Committee board member and was President of the River Park Commons Tenants Association. She currently serves as vice-president of the Tenants Association.

BASWA's Third Thursdays in December includes Carolling and a Winter Solstice celebration



Tenant Association Members (left to right) Betty Wynn, Secretary; Joann Thomas, Vice President; Yvonne Williams, President. Photo: Allison Clark

On December 20, children from School #12 will participate in an evening of caroling in the heart of the Wedge. The group will start at Nathaniel Square and head down South Avenue ending with hot cocoa and cookies at an area business. BASWA will also be hosting a Winter Solstice Celebration at Nathaniel Square Park on December 22nd, featuring Buddahood.

Police Citizen Initiative Committee will host an Open House on December 12 from 5:30 - 7:00p. m., at the East Side Police Station, (located in the Tops Plaza on N. Clin-

ton and Upper Falls). Come share your concerns about neighborhood safety, find out what is being done now, and meet other community members. For more information, contact the NET office 428-7640.

The Police and Citizens Together Against Crime (PAC-TAC) is a program where neighborhood residents patrol neighborhood streets on foot, being attentive to potential criminal activity and interacting with residents and merchants. This is a great opportunity to get to know your neighborhood better and meet some neighbors. PAC-TAC meets on the third Thursday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. PAC-TAC walks begin at the Net office on South Clinton.

For more information, please contact Robert Lauterbach at rb-lauterbach@gmail.com. Please note: the December walk has been cancelled. Walks will resume in January.

The South Wedge Neighbors Council meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:00p.m. at various neighborhood locations. Neighbors Council is a group of South Wedge residents committed to improving neighborhood safety and quality of life. They organize various neighborhood activities and work to make the South Wedge a great place to live. Consider joining Neighbors Council. It is a terrific way to get involved. The December Neighbors Council meeting is on December 5th from 6:00 - 7:00p.m. at Caverly's. For more information, contact Gale Lynch at 454-3295.

BASWA's Third Annual "Swing in the New Year" Party New Year's Eve 7:30 p.m.-1 a.m. at the Historic German House and the Keg, 315 Gregory St. Featuring two bands: the John Cole Blues Band and Bobby Henrie and the Goners. Includes a survival swing lesson, hors

d'oeuvres, desserts, noisemakers, and champagne toast. Silent auction and cash bar. Proceeds to benefit revitalization of South Wedge Area commercial district.

Tickets: \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the door. Available at the Keg, Historic House Parts, Cheesy Eddie's, Coffee Connection, Boulder Coffee Co., or online. Sponsors and donations for silent auction now being accepted. For details, visit [www.baswa.org/NewYear-sEvePartyPre.htm](http://www.baswa.org/NewYear-sEvePartyPre.htm).

Musica Spei (Music of Hope) presents Noel, Noel: A Renaissance Christmas on Saturday, December 15 at 8 p.m. at St. Anne Church, 1600 Mount Hope Ave. The concert of sacred choral music will highlight rarely performed works by Renaissance masters Jean Mouton, Her-nando Franco, and Loyset Compère, as well as William Byrd's classic *O magnum mysterium*. Free will offering; suggested donation \$5. ▲

## State of the Sector Draws Crowd

By Eileen Thomas

Scores of people from throughout Sector 6 gathered at School #12 on a beautiful, sunny and warm Saturday at the beginning of November for the first ever NBN6 State of the Sector Conference.

Organized by a committee of neighborhood residents and stakeholders, the day started at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast and exhibits from all the Neighborhood Associations and several area developers.

David Chappius, Chair of Sector 6, introduced keynote speaker David Driskell, Chair of the UNES-CO, Growing Up in Cities, project and lecturer at Cornell University.

His talk on the top 10 mistakes made by urban planners was a fun and inspiring start to the day.

Attendees had great interest in presentations made by representatives of six area real estate developers, the NYS Dept of Transportation and the City of Rochester. This series of 15-minute talks provided listeners with brief summaries of the broad range of projects planned or underway in Sector 6. Konar Properties, Conifer Development, the Al Sigl Center and Highland Hospital were among the presenters. The City provided an update on the brownfield remediation projects that are underway on Mt. Hope Ave, S. Clinton Ave and Gregory St.

Following a lunch buffet featuring foods from neighborhood

restaurants (Thanks to the University of Rochester for picking up the tab!), participants were able to attend up to three afternoon breakout sessions on topics ranging from how to do grant research, effective communication, and the upcoming property tax reassessment.

Congratulations to NBN Sector 6 for hosting. Also thanks to School #12 for providing the space, to all the Sector 6 volunteers who helped to organize the day. Also, many thanks to School #12 for providing the space to hold this first of its kind conference, to all the Sector 6 volunteers who helped organize the day, and to all the presenters who shared their knowledge with the neighborhood. ▲

## City to Reassess Properties in 2008

By Bob Boyd

In 2008, the City of Rochester will update the assessed values of approximately 66,700 properties. They will adjust the assessment to reflect current real estate values. The last time this was done was in 2004.

Property taxes are only distributed fairly when every parcel of property is correctly assessed. A property's value for tax purposes at the date of tax assessment should reflect what it would sell for on the open market. Reassessment attempts to ensure that the costs of city services are shared equitably.

Reassessment is not a means of raising taxes, but instead, is the fairest way to redistribute tax shares. The city does not simply raise everyone's assessed value by the same percentage and collect higher taxes.

Some assessments will go up and some will down based on market conditions in each neighborhood. There is a detailed process the city uses a detailed process to assess individual parcels.

The following are the steps that will occur in the next few months - **December 2007** - property owners will receive new estimated assessments and the pro-forma impact on their tax bill from a historical perspective. The assessment will be used first for the July 2008 City and School Taxes. That tax rate has not yet been set so the exact taxes for the coming year will not be known.

If you have a problem you should follow the process outlined in your assessment.

**December 2007 to February 2008** - property owners have an opportunity to review estimated assessments with City Staff. This is an

opportunity to review the detail and make corrections of errors - the assessor shows you with 5 bathrooms and you have 1.5. They can correct for that. They can also explain the method they used. You may want to look at what similar houses on your street are assessed for and what houses have sold for.

**March 18, 2008** - Board of Assessment Review (appeal process deadline). If you are not satisfied with the City Staff review you have to file a formal appeal. If you want to protest further you must meet this deadline.

**May 1, 2008** - Final Assessment Roll

**July 2008 - January 2009** - City/School/County/ Tax Bills

If you have any questions, contact the Bureau of Assessment at (585) 428-7221. SWPC will also hold information sessions in February to provide more information. ▲

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# Tap & Mallet Beer Pub Opens on Gregory Street

By Nancy O'Donnell

The heady aroma of hops has sent out a siren call to beer devotees around the city who are heading to the Tap & Mallet, the new beer pub on Gregory Street, to see if it's as good as they say (the "they" include the *Democrat & Chronicle*, RocWiki and countless pub crawl blogs). Luckily for all of us, the new establishment offers much more.

Once inside, the interior offers a pleasant transformation from Macgregor's green sports bar to a cozy refuge with a palette of warm welcoming browns, low lights and slated wooden stools. Most interesting are the v-shaped geometric upholstered booths that line the new walls. Artwork covers the walls and music fills the room with a delightful absence of TVs.

Owners Joe McBane and Casey Walpert met while McBane was working at the Old Toad on Alexander. (Walpert is the owner of Mex restaurant just down the street.)

McBane was studying for a degree in leisure management at Sheffield Hallam University in Great Britain when he came to the U.S. He met and married his wife Bethany and decided to stay. The couple now have two children, five-year-old Ben, and three-month-old Henry

After working for seven years as bar manager at the local English pub, he was ready for his own.

"I'm a fairly ambitious fellow. I like new challenges," said McBane. It also helped that he "comes from a beer culture."

After working several years in the East Ave./Alexander St. club corridor, and its "weekend, party, younger demographics," McBane

said he was ready for the South Wedge.

"This particular location really suited what I wanted to do," said McBane. "The South Wedge has a very nice eclectic range. It's more of an artsy, tasteful feel."

Once he opened locals stopped in to tell him "how happy they were

sample taste if requested. The wine list includes California, Washington State, Italian and French vintages.

When it comes to the food menu, McBane also sets high standards choosing only "high quality fresh ingredients—no frozen food."

Chef Paul Brewer, who worked at Mex for almost a decade before coming to the Tap & Mallet, has created a menu of "comfort food" that "pulls a little from many cultures".

Appetizers include the usual spinach artichoke dip, hummus and tortilla chips, chicken wings, and chicken tenders and the unexpected—caramelized shallot and goat cheese tarts, spicy chorizo and white bean stew, crab cakes and moules a la bier (mussels in beer).

Sandwiches show the same versatility: tandoori chicken on a baguette, black bean burgers, and Tuscan chicken. Entrees include a Delmonico steak, sausage and mash (the veal and pork sausage is made on site from a "secret" McBane recipe), and fish and chips.

"I brought in Shrimp Diablo," said Brewer. The dish features shrimp stuffed with horseradish, covered in panko breadcrumbs, wrapped in bacon swathed in chipotle cream sauce and resting on a bed of linguine.

Expect more changes in both food and drink in the coming months in addition to special beer tasting events. McBane said the pub would expand its hours to include lunch sometime in the spring.

**Tap & Mallet, 381 Gregory Street, 473-0503. Moderate prices. Open everyday: 4:00 PM to 2:00 AM. Food served until midnight.** ▲



Joe McBane stands ready to serve in his newly-designed pub. Photo: Mike Fleche

to have a local pub back."

Currently (and it's always subject to change), the pub carries some 30-draft beers, one cask-line and "an ever growing range of bottled beer." One notable is McBane's Best Bitter, courtesy of Rohrbach's Brewing Company. Beers come from all over the world—Vermont, Colorado, New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, Canada, England, Germany, Belgium, Ireland and more. McBane has made sure that his wait staff is tutored in the language of beer and is able to offer guidance and a

with horseradish, covered in panko breadcrumbs, wrapped in bacon swathed in chipotle cream sauce and resting on a bed of linguine.

Expect more changes in both food and drink in the coming months in addition to special beer tasting events. McBane said the pub would expand its hours to include lunch sometime in the spring.

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# Think Global, Shop Local and Support Our Neighbors

By Nancy O'Donnell

Forego the high gas prices, the traffic, the stress of mall world, and keep your holiday shopping local. Just follow the Wedge's handy alphabet trail to find something for everyone on your shopping list.

You can help our community businesses thrive in the new year by keeping your dollars here. Remember, many of our business owners are our neighbors, too!

**A** is for an Alpaca jacket from Peru found at the **COFFEE CONNECTION**, 681 South Ave. Don't forget to pick up some Fair Trade coffee (organic, shade grown, and fresh roasted) too. Coffee is roasted on site weekly. Also featuring handcrafted gift items from Peru; scarves, hats, and jewelry. 681 South Ave. Open Monday thru Friday 7a.m. to 7p.m. Saturday 8p.m. to 7p.m. [www.womenscoffeeconnection.com](http://www.womenscoffeeconnection.com)

**B** is for **BEALE STREET CAFÉ** and a BBQ Holiday gift from "The Blues venue of the Southwedge". Nothing is more environmentally sound than gifting with consumables...a Cajun lunch or dinner, hot sauces and BBQs. Yum! Consider their catering services too. 689 South Avenue. [www.bealestreetcafe.com](http://www.bealestreetcafe.com).

**C** is more than just coffee at **BOULDER COFFEE COMPANY**. Live music, wine, liquor and free Wi-Fi. 100 Alexander St. 454-7140.

**O** is for a design made of henna from **HENNA RISING** specializing in Traditional and Contemporary unique designs using all natural fresh Henna. Let us "Pamper your Spirit" by creating a party just for you. Parties can include Henna, Tarot, Massage, Middle Eastern Dance and more. Custom Drums and Tambourines also make great gifts! Gift Certificates Available. Available by appointment and at select salons and spas. 585-802-4365 [www.hennarising.com](http://www.hennarising.com)

**E** is for **EQUAL GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE & GIFT SHOPPE** offering distinctive coffees and teas for the discerning palate. Holiday specials on coffee by the pound and ½ pound as well as loose leaf teas, travel mugs, and all the accessories for the serious coffee and tea drinkers. Fresh pastries daily, a light fare menu, and fruit smoothies to suit anyone's taste. Home-made chocolate truffles by **HEDONIST ARTISAN CHOCOLATES**. Sassy holiday cards and unique gifts. Live entertainment every Friday thru December, trivia night every Wednesday,

and a roaring fire to sit by. Open Tuesday-Friday 7AM-Midnight, Saturday & Sunday 10AM-Midnight. Closed Monday. 750 South Avenue. 242-7840

**F** is for Fender guitar you'll find **ECHO TONE MUSIC** has everything from guitars, percussion and pro audio gear for professional musicians to djembes, used CD's, record players and microphones for your at home music fan who's always on the computer. 571 South Avenue. 585-454-2160.

**G** is for the **GENESEE CO-OP FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**. How about a share certificate for a prosperous holiday gift. 395 Gregory Street. 461-2230.

**H** is for **HISTORIC HOUSEPARTS**, Inc. featuring architectural salvage, restoration supplies and decorative accessories year round, and hand blown ornaments and holiday decorations by Christopher Radko during the holiday season. Gift certificates also available. 540 South Avenue, 585-325-2329. [www.historichouseparts.com](http://www.historichouseparts.com).

**I** is for individual delicious desserts from cakes to cookies, beautifully designs from **PREMIER PASTRIES**, 433 South Ave. 546-1420.

**J** is for **ST. JOSEPH'S NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**: how about a donation in your name?

**K** is for **KEY BANK**: "Key Possibilities" gift cards

**L** is for leather coats from **MARIANNE'S CONSIGNMENTS**. 792 South Clinton Avenue. 442-6910.

**M** is for the marvelous cheesecakes found at **CHEESY EDDIE** like "Peanut Butter Cup." 473-1300.

**N** is for the nicest gifts at **:NOOK**, Rochester's only modern lifestyle boutique featuring jewelry, letterpress cards, candles, bags, books, hip baby clothes, rugs and imported electronic music. 342-6665.

**O** is for organic yummy dinners at **NEW HEALTH CAFÉ**. How about dinner for two? 133 Gregory Street. 301-4095.

**P** is for pet sitting for a weekend getaway from **PETS FIRST**. 284-3544.

**Q** is for quality better the second time around found in a designer sweater from **ALL**

**AROUND TOWN CONSIGNMENT BOUTIQUE**--always upscale clothing and accessories. 732 South Ave. 314-4023.

**R** is for all the rest of the shops on the avenues in the Wedge--South and South Clinton brimming with holiday gift possibilities (see a longer list below!)

**S** is for a sandwich or two at **OPEN FACE**, South Ave. 232-3050.

**T** is for **THREAD**, a small boutique specializing in men's and women's clothing; locally made, and from small designers from Brooklyn to L.A. (Labels include Paul Frank, WESC, Brown Sound, Gentle Fawn, Jedidiah, Soundgirl, Hell on Earth, Fyasko, Beautiful Decay, Heavy Rotation, Soundgirl, Threadless, American Apparel, Public Domain, and The Rise and Fall). Housewares, gadgets, gifts and original art. -585.232.7110 - [threadrochester@aim.com](mailto:threadrochester@aim.com), 654 South Avenue.

**V** is for a vegan chocolate cake from **SAVORY THYME CATERING**, 133 Gregory Street, 301-4095.

**W** is for fine wine at **SOLERA WINE BAR** and a delectable cheese plate. 647 South Ave. 232-3070.

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(See display ads in this issue.)

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**BLUIE**: tech aid for your computer network. Tel. 820-3617. [www.blui.com](http://www.blui.com)

**BASWA**: tickets to "Swing in the New Year" party. Buy online at [www.baswa.org](http://www.baswa.org)

**CALVARY ST. ANDREWS PARISH**: a gift for the food cupboard 68 Ashland St. Tel. 325-4950

**C.H.MORSE STAMP CO.**: a personalized paper-embosser. 528 South Ave. Tel. 454-5188

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**FLOWER CITY GLASS**: tinted glass for your car. 188 Mount Hope Ave. Tel. 546-8646.

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**KEYBANK**: "Key Possibilities" gift cards. 1671 Mount Hope Ave. Tel. 241-4701

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# SOUTH WEDGE RETROSPECTIVE 2007

This was an exciting year for the South Wedge. Another Wedgestock Annual Meeting. The KaBOOM® playground build day at Marie Daley Park. The renovation of 111-113 Hamilton Street. SWPC said goodbye to Director Dan Buyer and hello to new SWPC Executive Director Bob Boyd. And at the year's end, the Greater South Wedge neighborhood was voted the best in the city in a Readers' Choice Award conducted by City Newspaper.



Executive Bob Boyd and Brian Pincelli join the crew of U of R students for a Wilson Day resurfacing of SWPC's parking lot.



In this before photo, Wedge mothers-to-be pose at a neighborhood picnic in 2002. (Left to right) Melody Altamura, Kate Kressman-Kehoe, Lani Sherrill, Cynthia Childs, Victoria Peter, Alison Holmes and Blake Sherer. See after photo on right. Photo courtesy of Mike Thompson.



This year welcomed the South Wedge Farmers Market behind Boulder Café on Alexander St. Local farmers sold their wares to an ever growing community of shoppers. Photo: Clarke Condé.



The photo of 111-113 Hamilton Street before the work had begun. See the after photo on page 1. Photo: Brian Pincelli



Director Bob Boyd joined with 200 other volunteers to transform the Marie Daley Park playground with the national KaBoom Foundation and The Home Depot. Photo: John Waudby



Some of the Wedge mothers return five years later to a Sept 15 Taste of the Neighborhood sponsored by the Highland Neighborhood Assoc. (left to right) Marcy Berger and Shira, Victoria Peter and Griffin, Cynthia Childs and Henry, Kate Kressman-Kehoe and Mae, Melod Altamura and Daniel. Photo courtesy of Mike Thompson.



Mountains of mulch, new playground equipment and spirit helped in an extreme makeover of Marie Daley Park on Build Day in August. Photo: John Waudby



SWPC welcomed new director Bob Boyd in June. Boyd, a former HSBC Senior Vice President and Regional Director in western New York, also served as board chair before replacing Dan Buyer. Photo: Brian Pincelli



Rose O'Keefe and former Wedge Newspaper editor, joined with many others to say farewell to SWPC Executive Director Dan Buyer. SWPC Director since 1999, Buyer left to work with New York State's Division of Housing and Community Renewal.



Highland Park Neighborhood Association President Mike Thompson makes it to third base during a Highlanders softball game. The co-ed team, in its third season, is part of the south East Fall Classic League (SEFC).



In May, South Clinton Avenue filled with more than 800 marchers and onlookers for the Southeast Community Spirit Parade, sponsored by Baber AME Church. The Highland Park Neighborhood Association, working with School #12, won "best floats," a papier-mâché duck and a shrub float (reflecting the association's roots to the Ellwanger & Barry horticultural business).



Boy Scout Troop 200 celebrated its 75th anniversary in June at St. Boniface Church on Whalen and Gregory Streets. This photo of the troop was taken sometime in the late 1940s. Photo courtesy of George Varga and Jeremy Cooney.

## Chelsey Associates Celebrates 30 Years on South Clinton



Bob Shepherd. Photo: Fred SanFilippo

By Mike Fleche

The business started as a way to let in more light.

In the mid-70s, Bob Shepherd and his wife Penny were living in a house on Oxford Street with stained glass windows. "It was too dark," Bob remembers. "We wanted the light and privacy too—so I sandblasted some clear glass to give the windows a frosted look."

He began to use sandblasting to treat glass, and found that the process worked well for bigger pieces. "Everybody asked us to do it smaller," Bob recalled. "So I invented a process that's a photo resist: I can reproduce an image on glass very, very fine, with photographic clarity."

In 1977, he started *Chelsey Associates Glass Etching* and moved into space on South Clinton Avenue. A year later, the business moved down the street to its current home, 836 South Clinton, next door to what was then Rochester Community Theater.

"The building was their annex," Bob recalled. "It was full of costumes."

At the time, there were only about six to ten glass etchers in the whole United States, Bob said. Now there are probably 250.

Bob and his partner went to New York City and approached Tiffany's. "They were in process of developing a (division) to go after the corporate gift market," he said. "They were do-

ing worldwide sales. I met with them—the match was perfect. They had the products and the market, and I had the etching process."

Soon Tiffany's was shipping glass to Rochester, and Chelsey Glass etched it and shipped it back. Chelsey's client base grew to include several big department store chains, including Sak's and Bloomingdale's. Bob has also done work for recording stars, movie actors, and two presidents.

The etching, usually for a business award, may consist of words or graphics—it's often a corporate logo, the person's name, and some words of appreciation. The surface can be flat or curved. The glass object varies: Bob has done vases, bowls, wine glasses, slanted cubes, sailing boats, even a tiny glass jewel box.

At one time the business had five employees, each with a different task: unpacking, coating, etching, cleaning, shipping. Penny still helps when there are a lot of orders to get out. "We get very busy after the first of the year," Bob says.

A few years ago Bob started importing a line of crystal from Belgium called Val St. Lambert. "They produce a high-end type of custom hand-blown crystal, very heavy, with a high lead content," Bob said. "We increased our client base considerably, because people would call us looking for that crystal, and we would offer to engrave it for them."

Today, Chelsey's clients include ITT, Kodak, and many national associations, as well as medical hospitals all over the country. "We have clients in just about every state," Bob says.

Both Rochester natives, Bob and Penny have lived in the South Wedge for 30 years. They moved out of the house on Oxford Street and bought a house on Cypress Street in 1977.

"The house was so big, we were like two beebies in a boxcar," he chuckles.

A South Wedge revival was in full swing. "There were young people moving in, and older people who had already lived here quite a while—the whole blend. It was much more stable—you knew your neighbor," Bob recalled.

In the late 70s, Bob got involved in the neighborhood, and served as president of the South Wedge Planning Committee from 1979-81. "It was a great time in the Wedge," he said. "There was a lot going on."

He recalls with satisfaction the

two main projects of his tenure: the development of the old Calvary Church site which became Averill Court, and the development of vacant land along the river into the Time-Warner Building.

"It was great to be a part of that,

to make a difference to the neighborhood," Bob said. "I have a lot of gratitude to all the people who made it happen."

**Chelsey Associates Glass Etching**, 836 South Clinton Ave. Telephone: 461-4000. ▲

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## Enjoying Your Food is Key to Health

By Joseph C. Ferrara, RPP

We read a lot of "news" from experts about foods that are one day good and the next day bad; helpful for this condition, preventative from that condition; or the fomenters of this or that disease. There is so much written on the subject that many are driven to worry, while others dismiss it all as silliness. (The latter probably are better off because worry directly weakens our immune system which leads to fatigue and other ailments.)

As most people know, the best answers are usually the more simple answers. In everyday language, a simple formula for good nutrition is that 70% of good nutrition is enjoying your food; 20% of good nutrition is how the food is prepared; and 10% is the food itself. Eating in good company and celebratory parties is always a satisfying meal. Mother's cooking is always the best comfort food.

Knowing that the mind creates the satisfaction explains why fast food companies spend billions on advertising with catchy songs, bright colors, kid's meals, toys and gifts to make you feel good about feeding off a very adulterated food product. Nobody directly dies from eating fast food and many consumers keep coming back for more. Why? Because the mind, which is the superior agent of nutrition, can be deceived by the allure of joy and the promise of satisfaction. The food itself is of little significance at the moment. Yet, it is known that repeated stimulation from adulterated food can, over a period of time, debilitate vitality which manifests as fatigue, weakened immune system and other ailments.

So why is so much said about food? In one word--marketing.

Most of what's published about health care is packaged and sent out by marketing firms hired by industry (food, drugs, books, vitamins, machines, instruments, etc.)

to promote "good news" about their product or "bad news" about the competition. Following this perception, a recent review of prestigious, professional publishing venues presenting the "findings of scientific studies," discovered that 80% were erroneous and most conclusions were subjective; that is, reflective of a predisposition. This implies that the glamour of officialdom and the honors of "science" are stage directed marketing tools for influencing, or you might say controlling, your mind to fill your stomach.

Two simple characteristics of good nutrition that have little to do with what you eat or how you eat it should be noted. First is enjoying your food; where the initial experience is joy and satisfaction that brings vital energy to the moment shared or task at hand. Second is how easily the innate food residue passes through your body (all adulterations to food leave unmetabolized residue in the body). The three qualities of health and good nutrition are intelligence, awareness and cheerfulness. All the above mentioned experiences and qualities of life are predominately controlled by your mind. All contemporary life sciences affirm that the mind creates the biology of form and sensation that connects our individual will with the material world. A strong will brings a unique personality and talent into the world, a week will is confused, unsure and easily pushed around by external forces. Even though this science of life is well established, it is still missing from the education of today's medical, health care industry workers - doctors, nurses, therapists, researchers, etc. - while erroneous, outdated theories, like the body is just a machine, are still being taught as "scientific" truth.

The function of the body is to transmute energy from the mind into sensation and experience and to communicate the sensations of the material world back to the

mind. The quality and efficiency of this transmutation is mostly controlled by the mind and secondly by the energetic quality of the food. Therefore, a primary mechanism of good health is a clear mind and a strong will. This cannot be found in a pill, a carrot or a hamburger. You already have this capacity.

Nutrition should be taught as the means to the proper development and practice of a clear mind and a strong will which brings conscious body intelligence; the true source of all strength. A propretarian, therefore, is one who eats food with an attitude of cheerfulness and intelligence. It is not so much about this food or that food.

To conclude, the most effective approach to improving health and happiness is providing access to knowledge and availability of simple, unadulterated food that easily passes through the body with the least residue. The result is an awakened body intelligence that will naturally choose a proper diet suitable to the individual's inner/outer activity and environment.

Joseph C. Ferrara, is a Registered Polarity Practitioner. He publishes the New Health Digest, is chef of the New Health Café and principal of New Health Academy.

*The Wedge welcomes articles on topics of community interest. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of the SWPC or its employees.*



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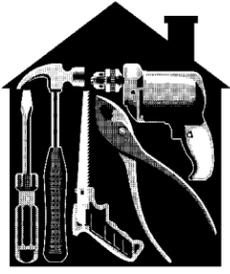
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Tickets Available at The German House, Historic Houseparts, Coffee Connection,  
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## Learn the Ropes



# “Tool Tips”

By Ed Meyers,  
SWPC Tool Librarian



Rope has a rich and long history. After early cave men learned to use stone tools, the next great discovery may have been lashing a

piece of rope onto a wooden stick to make a stone axe or club. In spite of this very long history, the first book on knots wasn't written until 1847 by a German man named Listing.

### NATURAL FIBER ROPES and TWINES

Before the age of synthetic experimentation, natural hard fiber was used to make ropes.

**MANILA ROPE**-- Considered

one of the best ropes made, it is woven from a natural hard fiber called abaca and taken from a species of banana plant grown in the Philippines. This rope is still used a good deal aboard ship and on shore. Synthetics have caused some decline in use.

**SISAL**--A whitish hard fiber rope, it is much in use in place of more expensive rope

**HEMP**--This one is costly to manufacture when its price is compared to a new synthetic which serve us better. Synthetics have caused hemp to lose favor.

**JUTE**-- Jute ropes and twines are not very strong but remain popular because it is soft and has many industrial uses. It is made

from a plant grown in India.

**COIR**-- A light weight, resilient rope made from the outer husks of coconuts. It is often woven into Manila and other rope lines to make them springier

**COTTON**--Ropes and cords created from this material have certain disadvantages but still remain popular. Such a rope is not very strong, and is often braided instead of twisted which does not allow them to be spliced. Cotton remains popular because it's easy to handle, runs smooth over a pulley or through a block and is not expensive.

### SYNTHETIC ROPES and TWINES

**POLYETHYLENE**-- Special features of these ropes are that they float. They are permanently colored during manufacture, water proof, light weight, flexible, and rot resistant. This makes them a natural for water skiing and water rescue.

**NYLON** The king among ropes because it is resilient, water and rot resistant and twice as strong as any natural fiber rope of the same size.

### How to choose a good rope.

Strength and stress are important factors. It is wise to choose a rope five times stronger than the load it must support. This safety factor may seem excessive, but it is ac-

cepted by users and industry as a bonafide standard.

What you plan to use the rope for is also an important consideration. There are many hundreds of different knots/lashings, and almost as many variations. Visit the public library for information on knots and lashing applications and learn

a valuable and fun skill applied in daily living

Special thanks this month to Herb Greenberg and Mary St. Pierre for their kind and generous donations of tools to our library system. The South Wedge community benefits from such generosity. ▲

## SWPC Says 'Sláinte' to Irish Dance School

By Brion Pincelli

The South Wedge is now home to *Rince na Sidhe* (pronounced "Rink-Na-Shee") a non-competitive Irish Dance Performing Arts Academy that started classes at St. Boniface School on September 1.

Teacher Mary Echter, a native of Rochester, NY, has studied the art for over 20 years. She began her dance career at the Penrose School of Irish Dance and has competed in local, regional, and national competitions. An avid traveler, swimmer, reader, knitter, and self-described "jack-of-all trades," Echter extended her dance experience to include Ballet and Salsa, but her love is progressive style Irish dance.

Along with her former competitive dancing history, she also has many years of teaching experience.

The driving force behind *Rince Na Sidhe* is Echter's desire to build "a non-competitive school that holds its dancers to the same rigorous training and technical demands of other competitive studios, while maintaining a focus on fun and friendships."

*Rince na Sidhe* is in production



for its very first Irish Dance exhibition. Dancers of all ages, levels of experience, and backgrounds are encouraged to participate in classes. ▲

## SWPC Community Calendar

### Direct Services Team

Thursday, December 20  
Noon @ 224 Mt Hope Ave

### Finance Committee

Monday, December 10  
Monday, January 7  
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

### Housing & Overlay Committee

Wednesday, December 19  
Wednesday, January 16  
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

### NBN Sector 6

Monday, December 10  
Monday, January 14  
5:30 pm @ 846 S Clinton Ave.

### Neighbors Council

Wednesday, December 5  
Wednesday, January 2  
6:00 pm @ TBA

### PAC-TAC

No PAC-TAC Walk in December  
Thursday, January 17  
6:00 pm @ 846 S Clinton Ave.

### Real Estate Team

Wednesday, December 26  
Wednesday, January 23  
6:00 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

### Resource & Marketing Team

Wednesday, December 26  
Wednesday, January 23  
7:30 pm @ TBA

### SWPC Board of Directors

Thursday, December 13  
Thursday, January 10  
6:00 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

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## From the desk of Executive Director Robert Boyd

What made the readers of the CITY Newspaper vote the South Wedge as the BEST neighborhood in Rochester?

The answer is simple – it's the Wedge Experience! I would suggest that what makes the Wedge a great place is what you experience when you visit, live or work here.



When you visit the Wedge, the experience includes the people you meet, the restaurant where you eat, the coffee shop you frequent, the bar you enjoy or the store you shop in. It is what happens when you are here. There are "good vibrations" here. Our businesses

tend to be unique, welcoming, customer-centric and in many ways "different" in the very best sense of the word. It is also not just the businesses but the street life. Our businesses are doing something right – many of them have earned distinction by being best of Rochester (see the list on page 1).

When you **live** in the Wedge, it is about living in a safe, affordable area—that's walkable and has what you need for your enjoyment!

It is about your neighbors and the people you meet.

When you **work** in the Wedge it is about easy access for your commute and plenty of places for lunch and after work activities.

Whatever the reason the Wedge is an experience! Come discover it for the first time or rediscover what makes it an award-winning part of the city. ▲

### Looking Back—Looking Ahead

*continued from page 1*

ilton Street for homeowners with disabilities and a "green" rehabilitation of 95 Oakland Street.

The business district continued to prosper in 2007 with the Business Association of the South Wedge Area (BASWA) providing leadership and a forum for business growth. BASWA has added community events such as "Third Thursdays," an evening of art and music, to draw people into the Wedge. They have made the street look better by adding benches and flowers.

SWPC and the Small Business Development Center at SUNY Geneseo provided counseling to over 82 potential and existing businesses. Nine new businesses opened in the South Wedge area, and the vacancy remained very low. The South Wedge Farmers Market opened and brought in people from all over Rochester. In addition to providing great local products, it also became a gathering place for neighbors on Thursday nights. On a sad note, the Green Grocer on South Avenue closed after a year in business.

Investment continues to be made in the commercial buildings

on South Avenue. Some of the projects are a result of the New York State Main Street program administered by SWPC which leveraged nearly \$1.2 million in private investment along the avenue. Those improvements on the street encouraged other private investments, most notably Wonder Windows at 634 South Avenue.

My dream for businesses in 2008 – a new grocery store with prepared foods opens at Gregory and South, an Italian restaurant and a steakhouse open to serve new patrons, and new businesses line up for space on South, South Clinton, and Mount Hope Avenues. A micro-business incubator nurtures new businesses to provide for future growth. Postler and Jaeckle completes their renovation of their façade and parking areas.

In 2007, SWPC partnered with KaBoom®, The Home Depot, the City of Rochester, local businesses and more than 100 volunteers to create a new playground for Marie Daley Park.

Knowledge Co-ops were established to raise money for the playground, and they turned into a great opportunity for neighbors to

interact while about gardening, sushi and wine among other things.

The second annual Wedgestock brought almost 500 people together to celebrate the Wedge.

The sculpture of Nathaniel Rochester for the park at South and Alexander was completed and will be unveiled in the spring. The SWPC office at Mount Hope and Hamilton has a new parking lot and a flower garden.

The proposed Highland Hospital parking ramp engaged many neighbors in a passionate defense of the neighborhood's character. The Rochester City Planning Board approved the ramp and required the hospital to form a design team, resulting in a significantly better design incorporating appropriate architectural materials with some unique features. The matter is still pending in the courts.

My dream for community involvement in 2008 – more active street groups that engage home owners and tenants to make their community better, further improvements to Marie Daley Park and an increase in the number of SWPC volunteers working to create a better "urban village".

Overall in 2007, the WEDGE has become a stronger "urban vil-

lage" with a bright future.

This would not be possible without the dedication of hundreds of volunteers. Many of you provide leadership and others make things happen. THANK YOU!

I would like to thank the SWPC team for their efforts and helping make my transition to Executive Director a smooth process. Thank you to Eileen Thomas, George Lorson, George Gotsik, Brian Pincelli, Allison Clark, Ed Meyers, Nancy O'Donnell and Mike Fleche for your support and encouragement.

I would like to also acknowledge

the SWPC Board of Directors for their leadership and direction.

To grow and improve, SWPC needs new people. If you want to become involved, please call me at 585-256-1740 ext 102, so we can figure out how to use your time and talents to make the South Wedge even better.

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

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