

THE 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 ▲

Nathaniel Rochester Statue Unveiling Slated for May 17



sitting in reflection contemplating his life and is not meant to dominate its surroundings, but rather welcomes passersby into the everyday activities of the space. The sculpture invites tactual and contemplative engagement. Millstones spread out nearby welcome visitors to become a part of the sculpture and experience the South Wedge Urban Village. In other words, people become the sculpture. True to its design, the space draws together neighbors of diverse backgrounds and integrates art into everyday neighborhood life.

The South Wedge Environmental Enhancement Project (SWEEP), headed by Cheryl Stevens, worked for the last seven years to transform the once blighted corner.

In 2001, SWPC joined with landscape artist Dudley Breed Jr., Eastman Kodak, the Greater Rochester Arts & Cultural Council, and NBN Sector 6 for a design charrette that plotted a park on the corner. ▲

member Susan John, State Senator Joe Robach, former mayor Bill Johnson, local developers, business owners, community leaders and residents.

Kettavong's Rochester sits eyeing the corners of a revitalized South Avenue and Alexander Street. The figure suggests a man

By Allison Clark

Sculptor Pepsy Kettavong will unveil his statue of city founder Colonel Nathaniel Rochester in Nathaniel Square on Saturday, May 17th at 2 p.m. Sharing in the community celebration are Mayor Bob Duffy, State Assembly

The Landmark Society House Tour Explores Highland Neighborhood

By Nancy O'Donnell

The Landmark Society of Western New York, one of the oldest and most respected preservation groups in the nation, is holding their 38th annual House and Garden Tour in the Highland Park neighborhood June 7 and 8.

The neighborhood, formerly called Ellwanger Barry, was discovered by the Society's committee in a leisurely drive through last September. Gregory Rosinsky, a Landmark Society neighborhood representative, joined the ride along.

"We were just blown over by the possibilities," said Tammy Chmiel Society events volunteer coordinator. "We found tons and tons of lovely houses, architecturally intact, well cared for."

Twelve houses circa 1920s were chosen for this year's tour.

For the first time the tour will move beyond single family residences to include condos. Chmiel was especially excited about two condos in the historic Spanish tile roofed Ellwanger Barry School at Linden and Meigs Streets.

"The condos have large skylights," said Chmiel. "One condo was part of the school's library and has lots of bookshelves. It also has a bench that was called the "Bad Boy Bench" that now is in [the

owner's] kitchen."

Lamberton Conservatory in Highland Park serves as the Society's tour headquarters. Parking will be available on the street and at School #12 on the days of the tour. "The school will be asking for donations that benefit the school," said Chmiel.



Photo by Michael Chmiel.

Tour tickets will go on sale in April and can be purchased at the Landmark Society, 133 South Fitzhugh St. and area Wegmans at \$18 members and \$20 general public. Tickets are \$25 if purchased on the days of the tours. For more information, visit the Society's website at www.landmarksociety.org. ▲

Redefining Healthy Choices: A Farmers' Market Manifesto -Part One

By Chris Hartman

For too long we have looked at the health of our food choices from a reductionist standpoint--weighing the nutrient value, the calorie count, the organic status, the level of trans fats, and other personalized areas of concern. Undoubtedly health consequences are associated with these choices, but we need to expand the context we use in this decision-making



ing process. In order to truly make healthy choices for ourselves and our communities, we must stop isolating food from the food system in which it is produced, shopping from the social, political, and economic activity that it is, and eating from the interactive, artistic, and sensual experience that it creates.

Nothing is more critical to our health than what we consume. We are what we eat. Good, whole foods free of harmful chemicals, dense with nutrients and representative of the basic food groups are the foundation of good health for all people. Eating fresh, local foods grown in ecologically sound ways offers these direct health benefits. Equally important are the indirect health benefits of supporting a food system that dramatically reduces harmful air, water, and soil pollution in our surrounding environments, issues that have significant public health consequences. Directly tying the health of the ecosystems created through the production of food with the health value we associate with food gives us the perspective through which we can truly make healthy choices about what we eat.

Read more in the next Wedge!

The South Wedge Farmer's Market opens on May 1, Thursdays 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., at the corner of South Clinton Avenue and Alexander Street (behind Boulder Coffee Company).

Plants, flowers, shrubs and trees will be on sale Thursdays 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. during May and June. ▲

New Life for Older Homes

CHDO Program Rehabs 11 Nelson St

By George Lorson and Eileen Thomas

Eleven Nelson St., a small neat house in the heart of Swillburg, was rehabilitated by the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) this winter using funds from the Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Program. The sparkling new kitchen and bath, beautiful oak floors and distinctive space make it a wonderful home for a first-time homebuyer.

The CHDO Program is administered by the Greater Rochester Housing Partnership, in conjunction with the City of Rochester. CHDO houses are acquired by the City through tax foreclosure or from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. The City or HUD deeds these houses to the Partnership, which

in turn contracts with CHDO-certified organizations like SWPC to do the construction.

For 11 Nelson Street, SWPC developed a detailed list of the work needed to be done. SWPC Real Estate Development Coordinator George Lorson supervised the construction provided by CAM Development, a certified lead abatement contractor.

The cost of construction and rehabilitation is partially underwritten by the Partnership's CHDO funding. The remaining cost is paid by the homeowner's down payment and mortgage. Buyers must have a minimum \$1,500 down payment. They also must meet with a bank and pre-qualify for a mortgage that is at least as large as what they need

to buy the CHDO home. CHDO house mortgages typically are in the \$60,000 - \$80,000 range.

Houses in the CHDO Program are available for sale to first-time homebuyers who meet federal income guidelines. Buyers who meet that requirement and are pre-qualified for a mortgage may also be eligible for up to \$6,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance through the City's home ownership program.

One unique feature of the CHDO Program is that rehabilitated homes are offered to City teachers, police officers and firefighters in the first week of sale. If not sold in the first two weeks, the house is made available to all other qualified buyers.

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Police Community Interaction Committee Meets

by MacClurg Vivian

The Highland-Eastside Police-Community Interaction Committee (PCIC) meets monthly to bring together neighborhood group representatives and organizations in the City's Southeast with Rochester Police Department Eastside personnel to discuss crime and quality-of-life issues. Under the leadership of Eastside Commander Mark Case, the PCIC added a problem-solving process to its monthly agenda. The committee report from the February 13 meeting, held at the Rochester Police Department (RPD) Eastside Division office on North Clinton Avenue, follows.

Crime. Commander Case and Lieutenant Churnetski gave an overview of crime in the last

month. Almost every category has seen a reduction in the last 30 days except for robberies and burglaries, which saw an increase.

Graffiti has been a big problem in the Southeast, including the NET office, which was tagged; however, CPO Steve Edgett was in the office and caught five teenagers in the act. This is not gang tagging. It is important to report graffiti as soon as possible. Call 428-5990 to get on a removal list. For tagging in progress, call 911.

Feet on the street. The police department continues to reorganize in order to move more people i.e., "feet to the street" into patrol. The officers will be coming from administrative positions, specialized units and new recruits. The issue is complicated by the recent loss of personnel: 15+ officers retired in the last 45 days; with more

coming throughout 2008 and in the next 2-3 years.

Outside Help. The crime and violence reduction "Impact Units" (a detail with state troopers, sheriff and RPD, plus parole/probation staff) return in April, which will add more feet to the street. Plus, the Governor's office has committed 60 to 80 troopers (plain clothes, investigators, and uniformed) to Rochester on a permanent basis. These troopers will not be under the direction of the Rochester Police Department but will work cooperatively with the Department.

Problem-Solving. Lieutenant Churnetski then led the committee in another brainstorming session, to identify an action plan to help solve one of many problems PCIC identified in December 2007--not knowing the officers

who patrol our community. Several strategies were created and will be implemented in the coming months: assigning officers to neighborhood National Night Out events, an open invitation to neighborhood meetings to officers on duty, community leaders invited to police roll calls, delivering neighborhood newsletters to the Eastside Office, featuring an officer of the month in community newsletters, scheduling ride-alongs and reactivating the new officer orientation program.

The South Wedge has three citizens representing this area on the PCIC: MacClurg Vivian and Scott Hewitt from the Hickory Nuts and Allison Clark from SWPC.

MacClurg Vivian, a Wedge resident, serves as PCIC Secretary. ▲



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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.

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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CORRECTION

The telephone number for Mise En Place Market was incorrectly listed in the last issue. The correct telephone number is (585) 325-4160.

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by Nancy O'Donnell

Goodbye Brian

Brian Pincelli, SWPC Marketing Coordinator for Real Estate Sales and Marketing Department,



recently left for a new job with the City of Syracuse Economic Development Department. He will be working as an Economic Development Specialist- Brownfield project manager working with the NYS DEC, the EPA, and several city departments to investigate and remediate Brownfields in the City of Syracuse. He will also be managing the Restore New York program for the City of Syracuse.

Pincelli greatly contributed to building a better South Wedge Urban Village. He was in charge of real estate sales and marketing for SWPC working with local developers, property owners, and SWPC staff to attract and help locate new businesses in the Wedge. Brian also worked closely with the local business associations

Pincelli earned his Bachelors degree in Environmental Design and his Masters in Urban Planning from the School of Architecture and Planning at the University at Buffalo

Welcome New SWPC Assistance

Matt Cadrette recently joined SWPC as an administrative assistant in March to help staff with advertising, storywriting, organizing and a whole range of other To Do's to promote its mission.

Matt Cadrette hails from Miami, FL and currently resides in Farmington, NY. He graduated with a degree in English from Valencia College in Orlando, FL.

When Matt's not at the SWPC,

he can be seen performing with Rochester's longest running improv troupe, *Nuts and Bolts Comedy Improv* (nutsandboltsimprov.com) or at home, sleeping, but Matt says, "leave him alone when he's doing that."

Christian Hartley Zwahlen arrived on February 18 at 12 a.m. his mother, SWPC Board Vice Chair Tanya Zwahlen reports. "He was the heavyweight champion of Highland Hospital, weighing in at 9 lbs., 5 oz. and measuring 22 inches. We plan to call him Hartley, after his paternal great grandfather and grandfather. P.S. We think he may have red hair.



Coming May 30 to
The German House
AZTEC TWO STEP

South Wedge Coffee Shop Aims For Carbon Neutral Footprint

By Nancy Sawyer Molina

The Coffee Connection, (Formally the Women's Coffee Connection) provides fair trade coffee and specialty merchandise in the South Wedge, while supporting social and environmental causes on both local and global levels. The South Avenue shop recently began the process of becoming one of the first Carbon Neutral businesses in Rochester.

What does that mean? The coffee shop is attempting to offset its carbon use by a number of different environmental activities.

The first part of the process requires the shop to measure its carbon use. For example, the business is calculating the amount of carbon that it releases into the atmosphere by planting, growing, shipping, roasting, and brewing coffee. The second part

requires the shop to plant trees and gardens to offset its total carbon use.

The Coffee Connection is working with Urban Homesteaders to compost its coffee grounds and Rochester Landscape Technicians to plant trees and gardens in vacant city lots to offset the carbon and provide a neighborhood food source.

In operation since 2001, the coffee shop offers organic shade-grown coffee produced on a Peruvian cooperative using a "sustainable agricultural method." In house, the shop provides counseling and pre-employment training for women struggling to create new lives for themselves.

The Coffee Connection is located at 681 South Avenue. Visit them on the web.

Nancy Sawyer-Molina is founder and president of the Coffee Connection. ▲



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Community Builders

By Allison Clark

Marie Dailey Park 1 Year Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendars! A one year anniversary celebration of the construction of Marie Dailey Park playground is planned for June 14th. Everyone is encouraged to bring the family and a picnic. Come for a great day of community celebration! Children art projects and snacks provided. Gregory and Ashland Streets in the South Wedge.

The South Wedge Neighbors Council meets on the first Wednesday evening of each month around the neighborhood. Neighbors Council is a group of South Wedge residents committed to improving neighborhood safety and quality of life and organize neighborhood

activities. Consider joining; it is a terrific way to get involved. Next meetings: May 7th, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Equal Grounds Coffee house on South Ave. For more information, contact Gale Lynch at 454-3295.

Wilson Foundation Invites Grant Applications

The Marie C. & Joseph C. Wilson Foundation is pleased to announce local funding availability through its Rochester Small Grants program.

Qualified 501(c)(3) organizations may apply for grants in the range of \$1,000 - \$25,000 throughout 2008. The grants are given to effective organizations that can impact positive change in the community.

Grants will not be made to individuals, partisan political organizations or to support

lobbyists. Requests for capital projects also will not be considered. For more info, visit www.mcjwilsonfoundation.org or call 461-4696.

Upcoming Knowledge Co-op EBAY Basics for Novices:

Friday, April 11th from 6:00-8:00 pm

Hosted by Robert Lauterbach. This co-op will be held at the SWPC offices.

Crafty Kids: Make a Home-made Gift for Mother's Day

Saturday, April 26th from 9:00 - 11:00 am

Bring along your favorite kid(s) and make an original piece of crafty art.. Location detail to come.

To sign up, contact Allison Clark at aclark@swpc.org or call 256-1740 ext 104. Sign up early. Spots fill up fast!

dents and merchants. PAC-TAC meets on the third Thursday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Walks begin at the Net office on South Clinton. For more information, contact Robert Lauterbach at rblauterbach@gmail.com.

Don't let the Community Spirit Parade Pass You By

The Pride of the Community Spirit Parade will march on South Clinton Avenue on June 7th, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. If you or your community organizations are interested in creating a float to showcase your love for your community, contact aclark@swpc.org or call 256-1740, ext 106 for more information.

Dog Walkers Against Crime

A new group "Dog-Walkers against Crime" is looking for anyone who likes to walk their dog, meet new neighbors and help deter crime in the neighborhood. The group meets at Marie Daley Park (between Gregory and Hickory) on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. So bring your animal companion and walk the neighborhood!

Rochester Civic Garden Needs You

The Rochester Civic Garden is looking for new gardens to show in their 2008 Garden Tour on July 12 and would love to include a South Wedge home. Please contact Christine Froehlich at rcgcc@frontiernet.net or call 473.5130 for more information. ▲

South Wedge History Club Plans a Busy Spring

Stanley Marshall will give a free slide show, *Rochester Today, Rochester Yesterday: Pioneer Rochester (1789-1832)* Monday, April 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Branch Library, 971 South Ave. The South Wedge History Club is free and open to the public.

In June, Rose O'Keefe, local history writer, teams up with Arleen Oliver, program director at the Buckland History Center, for this year's Regional History Fair. The

fair will be held at the Buckland History Center, a 1820 farmhouse at 1341 Westfall Road in Brighton, on Flag Day, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

Vendors may rent tables for the fair. Prices range from \$20-\$40 by April 15 (box lunch included). Space is filled on a first-come, first-served basis, determined by postmark with full payment.

Send checks, made out to, Rose O'Keefe, 217 Gregory St., Rochester, NY 14620-1321 ▲

The Police and Citizens Together Against Crime (PAC-TAC)

helps residents to patrol neighborhood streets on foot, to keep watch for potential criminal activity and interact with resi-

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"It takes a village to teach teens boundaries"

by Kristine Fredrick

Some people are afraid of teenagers. Other people find them amazing cocoons of future adults—that's me. I work with teens and consider it my privilege and obligation to interact with them. I can see what is scary though. Teens test out everything, bad language, mean pranks, social boundaries, and even crime. They also need supervision, and independence to test out their adult responsibility, life and work skills, and growing knowledge base.

In our neighborhood we have many young teens who are home alone in the summer and after school days, testing their responsibility, until the parents come home. This is normal, it is not poor parenting. What happens when parents are away at work? Teens gather at one house or another, play video games, go to the rec center, ride bikes, take walks. That might get pretty boring after a week or two. We don't have a summer camp or volunteer program for our kids here in the Highland Park neighborhood, so my teen neighbors played badminton for a week or two, then some other street games, then they discovered the pinecones under a neighbors tree and decided they would be great artillery for war games in the

street. Later I walked past as they were sitting in a different neighbors yard. I always greet them and say something a corny, old-fashioned adult would say. "How are you guys? You look bored." Or, "Does Ms. So and So know you are in her gardens?"

Last year when I was walking home from my aunt's house on Ashland Street, I was whistled at on Nicholson Street by some boys who were middle school age. I laughed at them and told them I was old enough to be their mom. They gave me a fresh reply about how that's ok they were "grown". I explained that there are nice ways to be friendly and say hello to the ladies in the neighborhood and gave some examples. They were very giggly boys and gave up on me with an, "Okay miss have a good day." They never did get my digits, but they learned some boundaries.

Your boundaries may be different than mine, or than the parents of the teens you encounter around here, but learning that different people have different boundaries is a valuable lesson for young adults. So when kids litter on your lawn, it may be news to them that some people don't like trash in the yard. Or, if your young neighbors sit on your car they might not realize that there

is any difference between sitting on your steps and sitting on your car. They are not omniscient, so be friendly: "Whatcha doing there Jake?" and be firm, "Don't do that any more buddy." "That ruins my paint job," "Do I have to clean up after you," or "Do you wanna help me here?" Feel free to add some corny examples, "When I was a kid my dad woulda kicked my butt if I did that..."

Adults give off mixed messages about boundaries when they don't maintain their property. So if you are annoyed by the trash, graffiti, or foot traffic in your yard, step back and have a look: is the paint peeling, siding damaged, landscaping overgrown with weeds, stairs broken? Are drugs being used or sold on my property? Giving a clear message that you care about yourself and your property can take the place of those conversations with teens you are uncomfortable having.

Young people appreciate honest praise and a sincere interest in their needs. They need a healthy community. Don't ignore them; be a part of that healthy community by interacting in a healthy way when you need to.

Kristine Frederick is a local writer. The article was first printed in *The Buzz*, a Highland Park Neighborhood Association newsletter. ▲

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Coqui's Journeys Bring Global Gifts to the Neighborhood

By Nancy O'Donnell

Jorge Yacila envisions a bright future for Coqui's Journeys, his new gift shop, nestled in a cozy corner behind Cinema Theater, next to Muddy Waters Cafe.



Jorge Yacila grabs a bull by its horns in his new Latin American gift shop. Photo credit: Allison M. Dow

He's dubbed his new neighborhood, the "five corners" section of the South Wedge and he thinks the name should stick. "It's a great way to make popular a multicultural area," said Yacila noting the other shops and eateries on South Clinton. "A Chinese market, an Indian restaurant and store, a Japanese restaurant, Highland American Diner. It's a good place to come to."

Yacila, who grew up in the Park Slope area of Brooklyn, was always attracted to things Latin American.

"I had a passion since I was a kid for the arts and crafts of Peru and Mexico," said Yacila, whose nickname as a child was "Coqui" (pronounced Co-key)

His love for art notwithstanding,

Yacila turned to the sciences for a career, and moved to Rochester to work as an electrical engineer.

Some years later, he decided to "find out what I wanted to be" and Yacila looked to family entrepreneurs in Trujillo, Peru for inspira-

tion. Every roof for luck, strength and good will."

Nearby hang a series of paintings of Spanish angels including the "angel of abundance" along with watercolors of "a congregation of gossiping women." Below the artwork, Yacila has assembled Inca kola drinks, jars of "very, very hot" chili, salsa, and black mint seasoning favored by Peruvian cooks.

In another room, Yacila points to art he admires by local potter Sarah Senour and photographer Joseph Sorrentino. Joining the Rochester creations are hand-carved chests in the Cuzco school of art and Pre-Columbian style Mochica vessels. Gifts and goods in stock also arrive from Guatemala and Paraguay, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

Coqui's Journeys will add cultural events in the coming months. Look for information on weavers and other artisans demonstrations.

Coqui's Journeys: Cultural Gifts, Novelties & Collectables from other lands, 975 S. Clinton Ave., 271.7910. www.CoquisJourneys.com

Tues. 11:30 p.m., Wed-Sat. 11- 6 p.m., Sunday 12-4 p.m. Closed on Mondays ▲

tion. One sold educational books imported from Spain. Another marketed scrap metal. A sister owned a gas station. Add to that, the M.A. in e-business he earned from the University of Phoenix and the City's Developmental Office's support, and he was ready for business.

Today his South Clinton Avenue gift shop spreads a cornucopia of gifts, fabrics, paintings and *object d'art* from around the globe. Peruvian sweaters, wooly Alpaca hats and soft scarves, and "Elf chullo" hats are artfully arranged. On a large center table strut bulls of all shapes and sizes.

"Bulls are important symbols in Cuzco, [Peru]," said Yacila. "Bulls are placed on the tops of

Chamber Music Concert Series

Eastman School of Music faculty perform Spring Chamber Music Concerts at the Hervey Ely House, a historic Cornhill landmark April 13 and May. For tickets call Dr. Ilan Levin at 301.4650. Ticket prices range from \$6-\$12



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New Life for Older Homes*continued from page 1*

All CHDO houses have undergone lead-based paint abatement and have a Certificate of Occupancy. All structural problems and problems with things like roofs, furnaces, plumbing, and electrical work are repaired. Where needed, kitchens and bathrooms are rehabilitated, and hardwood floors are restored. All the rooms in the house are freshly painted.

"The Home Rochester/CHDO Program presents a unique opportunity for an income-qualified first-time homebuyer to purchase a completely rehabilitated home," said Lorson. "These homes will require little if any capital improvements over the next 15 years and special mortgage programs may be available to the income-qualified purchaser to make the home truly affordable." ▲

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SWPC Community Calendar

Finance Committee

Monday, April 7
Monday, May 5
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

Housing & Overlay Committee

Wednesday, April 16
Wednesday, May 21
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

NBN Sector 6

Monday, April 14
Monday, May 12
5:30 pm @ Monroe Co. Parks Dept.

Neighbors Council

Wednesday, April 2
Wednesday, May 7
6:00 pm @ TBA

PAC-TAC

Thursday, April 17
Thursday, May 22
6:00 pm @ 846 S Clinton Ave.

Real Estate Team

Wednesday, April 30
Wednesday, May 28
6:00 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

Resource & Marketing Team

Wednesday, April 30
Wednesday, May 28
7:30 pm @ TBA

SWPC Board of Directors

Thursday, April 10
Thursday, May 8
6:00 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

Clean Sweep

Saturday, May 10
Cobbs Hill Park



“Tool Tips”

By Ed Meyers,
SWPC Tool Librarian

Hit hard with soaring energy costs and your home wasn't

Take action and tame the heating and cooling bill monster right now.

Begin to save on heating costs with water! Dry air evaporates moisture from our skin to cool body temperature. A grand feeling in summer but unwelcome in winter. Consider adding an automatic humidifier to your furnace system or purchase an inexpensive portable unit to maintain suggested moisture levels.

Next, keep the cold out. Experts say the average American home loses 10 and 50 percent of its energy through inadequate insulation and inefficient lights or appliances. Insulate, especially in attics and basements and replace those old drafty windows and also add weather-strip to the doors. You heard about the new energy saving light bulbs but have you installed any?

A gap at the bottom of entrance doors allows clearing the floor or rug when it swings open or closed. This is another major source of heat loss. Years ago homemakers sewed cloth tubes and filled them with cracked corn to block the

escape of heat at that location. Today's ready made flexible door sweeps available at hardware stores allow free door movement while reduce escaping heat.

A setback thermostat can cut heating/cooling bills up to 10 percent per year by automatically reducing your thermostat 10 to 15 percent for eight hours per day. The setting should begin lowering the temp an hour before going to bed and raise it again an hour before getting up. The reverse applies for cooling systems in the summer. Other tips include:

- Upgrade to an Energy Star rated efficient furnace or boiler and reduce heating bills by almost 30 percent
- Change your furnace/air conditioning filters for improved efficiency. Experts recommend a monthly filter change depending on your air conditions.
- Improve your water heaters efficiency by draining it every six months to remove mineral deposits and sediment. A faucet or other

drain at the bottom of the heater serves this purpose.

- Only run full loads in your washing machine, clothes dryer or dishwasher for maximum efficiency. Open the dishwasher door slightly after the final rinse cycle to replace electric dry cycle with a free air dry one.

- Turn down the water heater from the standard 120 degrees to 115 degrees; and you should save more than 10 % on the water heating bill.

- Install water flow-restricting shower heads. You can cut hot water usage by up to 50 % and not affect shower pressure.

For additional no charge professional help on other energy conversation questions, contact New York State Energy and Research Authority. Their toll free line is 1-[866]-NYSERDA. ▲

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SWPC Executive Director Bob Boyd turned his column over this month to a new resident for a student's view of the South Wedge

My name is Joshua Ganskop, and I don't know a thing about writing for a newspaper. I am a student at Monroe Community College. I am not originally from the South Wedge; I actually moved here two months ago. I would like

to take this time to thank everyone for the welcome cookies and cake; I ended up with a whopping none!:) Anyway, my landlord is Bob Boyd and when I dropped off my rent this month, he asked me to write an article. So here goes...

To be honest, when I first got here, I was a little nervous. I mean, I grew up 30 minutes from the suburbs out in the country where there are more apple trees than people (yup, Wayne County). So, of course, when I would go anywhere and see graffiti it's a little intimidating (unless it's a pair of feet, my five-year-old niece can draw that). But, I would like to note here that that was only a first impression. After living here I recognize that the South Wedge has more to offer. My favorite part of living [here] is how close the Genesee River is. I don't know how many people have realized, but if you walk along the river in the Genesee Gateway Park, you have an excellent view of the city. In addition to going for a walk, I have also gone to the Laundromat on South Avenue. It was there I had my first real encounter with some locals, and they were definitely real cool. While sitting there for like five hours, I had plenty of time to look around the walls, and there are some awesome paintings there. Now I don't know much about art except you sound smart if you mention the word "brushstrokes," but other than that I like Edvard



Joshua Ganskop

Munch's *The Scream* and those paintings on the wall are definitely on par.

After a few more days here I noticed that paintings on the walls in the Laundromat were just a bench note to the creativity of the community. I really like those murals that have been painted on the buildings in the neighborhood. The one that really sticks out in my mind is the building where South

Avenue meets Mt. Hope Avenue [St. Joseph's House of Hospitality], and it's huge. Mad props (aka nice work) to the person(s) who created it. That takes a lot of talent that I unfortunately do not have. I guess I will just stick to writing—just kidding.

I'm sorry that I really haven't experienced much more than that in the Wedge, but here is what is on my itinerary. This week I plan to take my girlfriend to Cheesy Eddies on South for a slice of cheesecake, next I plan to go to Mise En Place (which means "everything in place") to pick up some spinach, and third, I plan on meeting some more people. I do my laundry once a month at that Laundromat, so I will be glad to talk.

I think I am now entering what is called a "closing," so thank you if you are still reading this. I guess since my article may suck so bad, I will leave you with some words from Bob Marley to enrich the rest of your day: "Live the life you love, love the life you live." And it's not cool to tag on private property. PEACE. ▲

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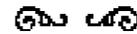
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