



PAGE 7 Jeremy Wright Landscapes the Holidays
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PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE, A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION SERVING THE SOUTH WEDGE

Community Aids in Riverfront Transformation

New Erie Harbor and The Hamilton Planned for River Park Commons Site



By Robert Boyd

The South Wedge dream of a revitalized riverfront on the site of River Park Commons on Mt. Hope Avenue is coming closer to reality...

In May 2008, Conifer Development presented their initial plans for the redevelopment of River Park Commons. A number of important issues were identified...

The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. encouraged the community to express their concerns and helped them to outline significant issues. (To all those

who wrote letters, attended meetings, made telephone calls or otherwise communicated the message—Thank you! The developer reached out to us in response to study the issues and understand our concerns.

SWPC is pleased to provide an update of the project and to acknowledge Dick Crossed and Alan Handelman of Conifer Development for recognizing the value of the site and taking a totally new approach.

In the May proposal, access to the river was limited. The current proposal provides improved vistas

with three river access points. At Averill Avenue, a 60 foot wide access point will provide a "grand entrance" to the river. A welcome sculpture is planned that will include a broad landscaped walkway with a water fountain that will guide people to the river.

Another major concern to the community was the lack of parking. As a result of the new design, parking allows for almost two spaces per unit, which is what was needed.

The proposed structure design in May was for 100 two-bedroom units in 12 buildings with no variation in design. This arrangement did not attempt to incorporate the

continued on page 12

Sawyer-Molina Among MCC's Top 15 Activists

By Nancy O'Donnell

Nancy Sawyer-Molina, founder and director of the Coffee Connection was recently named one of MCC's top 15 graduates in the community college's 47-year history...



Nancy Sawyer-Molina

"I was surprised and honored," said Sawyer-Molina, who agreed with MCC's emphasis on the necessity of graduates "giving back to the community."

"I work so hard, and I'm always focused on what I do. I don't realize that other people know what I do," said Sawyer-Molina.

The Coffee Connection, formerly the Women's Coffee Connection,

provides premium free-trade coffee and pastries while practicing social activism. At its South Avenue location, Sawyer-Molina's business focuses on providing

counseling and pre-employment training for area women recovering from substance abuse. On the global level, the shop reaches out to farmers in Peru who have given up their coca crops...

Sawyer-Molina will receive her award

at a celebration on MCC's Brighton Campus on Oct. 20, 4 p.m. The event is open to the public. A photo exhibit of the 15 awardees, on display for the event, will later be displayed around the Rochester area in the coming months.

Heating Costs to Rise Locally

by Ben White

With winter quickly approaching, South Wedge residents will need to start heating their homes soon. For some, this means firing up the gas furnace, while others switch on their electric heaters.

Despite a recent drop in the cost of natural gas, home heating costs are expected to skyrocket nationwide. Though the price of gas has dropped in recent months, it swelled so much before peak-

ing in July that the average fee remains higher than ever before at this time of year. General estimates from around the country say consumers can expect about a 15% increase in their heating costs.

SWPC Director, local homeowner and landlord Bob Boyd expects his gas heating costs to jump from \$1.07 per therm to \$1.30 per therm, a 20% hike from last year.

Residents using oil can also continued on page 5

Did you know that more people voted for an American Idol than the President of the U.S. in the last election?

Show the World That You Care!

VOTE!

Important voter information on page 10

Thank You HSBC and Chase!

HSBC and Chase Bank have donated \$5,000 each to the South Wedge Planning Committee in support of SWPC's business recruitment and economic development program.

SWPC welcomes Chase Bank as a supporter of our business programs - we look forward to a successful collaboration.

HSBC has been a loyal supporter and valued partner in the South Wedge for many years. SWPC is grateful for their ongoing support and encouragement.

For information on SWPC's business advising and other economic development efforts, contact Robert Boyd at 256-1740, ext 102 or Eileen Thomas at 256-1740, ext 103.

Learn Smart Ways to Winterize Your Home on Pages 4-5

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South Wedge Planning Committee 224 Mt. Hope Avenue Rochester, New York 14620

## Highland Branch Library News

The Highland Branch Library will host a class on disaster readiness entitled "Preparing for Emergencies," on Saturday, November 8th, 1:00-2:30 p.m. The American Red Cross Greater Rochester Chapter program will discuss: how to make a kit of supplies for family members and develop a communication and evacuation plan. They will also talk about the most likely types of disasters and emergencies that might occur in our area. It will also cover information about dealing with some specific medical emergencies.

The program is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. The library is handicapped accessible. Accommodations for disabled participants must be made at least 10 business days before the program. Call Deborah Nevin, Program Coordinator, at 428-8304 to make arrangements.

### Youth Programs

#### Story Times - October 28 - December 4<sup>th</sup>

##### Two Year Olds - Tues. at 10:00 a.m.

This is a story time for toddlers and their care givers.

##### Babies 6 months to 23 months - Wed. at 2:00 p.m.

Nursery rhymes, songs, music and short stories.

##### Three, four and five year olds - Thurs. at 10:00 am

Longer stories, sing songs, learn poems, finger plays and rhymes.

##### Magic Tree House Book Club meets on two

Wednesdays a month.

Discuss a Magic Tree House book and do fun activities!

##### Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm

*Good Morning, Gorilla* by Mary Pope Osborne

##### Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 3:30 pm

*The Knight at Dawn* by Mary Pope Osborne

##### Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm

*Revolutionary War On Wednesday* by Mary Pope Osborne

##### Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm

*Thanksgiving on Thursday* by Mary Pope Osborne

##### FOR "TWEENS" (kids grades 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>)

##### Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am

*The Missing Girl* by Norma Fox Mazer

##### FOR TEENS (9<sup>th</sup> grade and up)

##### Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am

*News from the Dead* by Mary Hooper

Register at the front desk and check out a copy of the book.

All programs are free and open to the public although registration is required for some. For questions about the programs, call 428-8206. All programs will be held at the Highland Branch Library at 971 South Avenue. Please register in person or by calling 428-8227. ▲

### Letter to the Editor

What do you do with five minutes of coffee left in the cup and no pressing need that needs attention? For me on a recent morning meant a plan in mind to trash old copies of *The Wedge* saved since February 2006.

Five minutes stretched to thirty-five as I scanned articles and reminisced about people, places and events. Nothing got trashed! What a source of neighborhood history!

This is a great little newspaper which touches upon the whole Southeast corridor. I'll find a place to file them away to relive a future cleaning/sorting spree on another rainy morning. I do hope that there is another repository for this treasure and that copies are archived somewhere!

Barb Case,  
Highland Park Neighborhood



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## Renting and looking for ways to save energy?



- >> Keep your air conditioning at 78 degrees or higher in the summer and keep your heat at 68 degrees or lower in the winter.
- >> Consider replacing your light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs – they use up to 75% less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.
- >> When it's hot, close curtains and blinds during the day to keep the sun out; when it's cold, close them at night to help hold the heat in.
- >> Unplug power adapters and chargers when you're not using them – the same goes for microwave ovens, coffee makers and other appliances – many draw energy when not in use.
- >> Scrape dishes instead of rinsing them before you use the dishwasher – and use the no-heat drying feature.
- >> Purchasing a room air conditioner? Choose an ENERGY STAR model – and make sure it's the right size for the space you need to cool.

An Energy East Company  
08-0534

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

#### Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

**1** Protect yourself from a silent killer. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that is a product of incomplete burning of natural gas, propane, gasoline, coal or wood. It can result from a faulty chimney, flue or vent from a heating appliance or water heater. Exposure to carbon monoxide can cause flu-like symptoms, including headache, dizziness, weakness, nausea and loss of muscle control. **Have your heating system and chimney, flues and vents checked once a year by a professional to protect you and your family.**

**2** Be prepared if you smell natural gas: Get up, get out and call RG&E immediately from a neighbor's phone. We'll respond quickly to make sure you and your family are safe.

>> If you are an RG&E natural gas customer and need to report a natural gas emergency or suspect a carbon monoxide problem, call us at 1.800.743.1702 or call 911.



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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.

Ad Deadline  
for Next Issue  
October 22!

THINK GLOBAL  
Shop Local!

by Nancy O'Donnell



Blissful couple--Kristin Ault and John Chajka

crying!"

The Hamilton Street residents are both members of the Wedge Neighbors Council. Kristin is the founder of DWAC or Dog Walkers Against Crime".

When not proposing, John offers dog walking and dog sitting in the South Wedge as "John's Dog Care" and works for Nutro Dog Food.

He is also a musician in three local bands: *The Quitters*, *The Grinders* and *Clockmen*. Kristin works for a local lawn care company as an Office Manager. Both are "the proud parents of Kaya Penelope, a Great Dane/Mastiff mix."

### Wedge Activist Gets Engaged

Kristin Ault and John Chajka, "huge City/Wedge Advocates" became engaged on August 23 while attending a *Journey* Concert at the State Fair. The couple have been dating for 2 1/2 years.

"Immediately following the show, we got on the Ferris wheel where John popped the question," said Kristin. She also reports that she "remembers nothing as I was

### Wedge Business Takes the Lead in South Wedge Clean Up

Ron Maier, owner of Kenron Industrial Air Conditioning, Inc. on South Avenue, decided to take the lead on sprucing up the entrance to the South Wedge when others didn't.

Maier and his crew—son Shawn Maier, Jason Hu, Dave Gee, Tim Phillips, and Ian Wells—

took on the heavily overgrown South Avenue Underpass at Mt. Hope Ave. on Sept. 6. After a few hours of raking and pulling weeds, the cityscape looked great.

SWPC salutes this local business for taking the initiative in making the South Wedge great! (See photo on page 6)

### University of Rochester Program Encourages City Living

UofR Spokesperson Sharon Dickman reports that in the last six months, 13 University employees received financial incentives when they bought homes in the neighborhoods closest to the University. Seven new residents are settling in Sector 6 and six more purchased properties in Sector 4 on the west side of the Genesee River.

The University Home Ownership Incentive Program now gives up to \$9,000 for closing costs and other expenses to homebuyers who are regular full-time and part-time faculty and staff who purchase homes in Sector 4 or Sector 6 of the city. The benefit program applies only for an employee's primary residence. Buyers are not limited by their income.

Since the March 28 announcement, 136 University employees have requested employment verifications as qualified employees for this new arrangement. The program was made possible by the University, the City of Rochester, Advantage Federal Credit Union, and Canandaigua National Bank & Trust. The University offers \$3,000, with a comparable amount from the City of Rochester and Advantage Federal Credit Union or Canandaigua National Bank & Trust to encourage home ownership in the city.

More information about the

program is available at [www.rochester.edu/working/benefits/housing/](http://www.rochester.edu/working/benefits/housing/) or by calling 275-2087. Potential buyers must obtain letters from the University's Benefits Office to verify their employment at the start of the house hunting process.

### The Coffee Connection Partners with Edison Tech on Art Project

The Coffee Connection on South Avenue will soon be working with students from the School of Imaging and Information Technology (formerly known as Edison Tech) to create a mural on the outside of the building.

"The artwork will display a window into the coffee house," said director Nancy Sawyer-Molina. "It will have a visual that reads, 'Our coffee is connected.'"

The students, taking part in Mayor Duffy's Youth Council, were asked to find ways to find projects that would "display and recognize [their] talents."

"They are treating the project as a commercial undertaking. They're putting together a whole committee to organize the work," said Sawyer-Molina.

### Wedge Artist Chosen to Improve Paddy Day Website 2009

Bob Tucker, *Wedge* newspaper graphic artist and owner of Graphically Speaking, was chosen by the Rochester, New York St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee to improve the annual event's website. Some of the major improvements will include online registration and online payment option via PayPal for parade entrants. Another new feature will be an interactive map supplying comprehensive graphs and information on the parade route and parking for spectators as well as detailed line up locations for parade marchers.

### RIT Student Class Project Promoted Wedge Green Living

RIT's Environmental Management student Karen Monroe used a part of her senior project to build a South Wedge Green Initiative in the South Wedge to encourage recycling and to help residents to reduce their carbon footprints. The five-week pilot program led to the installation of recycling bins from Alexander St. to Gregory St. on South Ave. Monroe reported recently that a change of personnel in the Monroe County recycling department brought about a recall of the bins in mid September. ▲

## Book Bag Beat

By Lori Brice and Roger Jonezk

### Mega Sale Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

Clear Out your Clutter! Support the School #12

Didn't find time to host your own yard sale this summer? Have any number of wonderful items that no longer have a place in your home? No worries, the School 12 Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is at your service!! We will be holding our **Second Annual Mega Sale on Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Donations can be dropped off at School #12, 999 South Avenue ( across from Highland Hospital) from Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>- Thursday, October 2nd from 9:30am - 3:00 pm and Friday October 3rd from 9:30 am until 8:00 pm. Remember, all donations are tax deductible (receipts will be available when dropping off donations). And don't forget to stop by the sale on Saturday, you never know what you might find!! All of the proceeds will be used to support our school/community garden, Mighty Ducks basketball team, artist-in-resident program, classroom field trip expenses, used book sale and more! Any items remaining after the sale will be further distributed throughout the community.

### School #12 Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>: Second Annual School 12 Mega Sale

Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:00-7:30pm: Hispanic Heritage Night

Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> 8:45-9:30 a.m: First Friday's in the Kick-a-poo café\*\*

Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm: PTA meeting - State of the School Address

\*\*First Friday's in the Kick-a-Poo Café: Stop by for some fruit, a cup of coffee, glass of juice, pastry etc. All welcome--parents, volunteers, members of the community.

### Calling All Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities abound at School #12. Our volunteer program is over 70 members strong and always looking to expand. Typical volunteer activities include reading buddies, math enrichment, math review, library assistance and more. There are parents and members of the community that commit as little as 30 minutes a week and as much as 4 hours a day.

Contact School 12 parent liaisons Michelle Garcia Daniels (461-3280 or [michelle.garcia-daniels@rcsdk12.org](mailto:michelle.garcia-daniels@rcsdk12.org)) or Vicki Robertson (461-4282 or [vic\\_robertson@frontiernet.net](mailto:vic_robertson@frontiernet.net)) for more information and a volunteer application.

New this year is a first grade literacy program with the goal of getting all first graders reading at grade level by year end. Co-ordinated by Dr. Lindsey Nelson from the University of Rochester, it includes literacy training for the volunteers. People are needed primarily after school, but also before and during school hours. Contact Dr. Nelson (273-3737 or [Lindsey\\_Nelson@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:Lindsey_Nelson@urmc.rochester.edu)) for more information and a volunteer application. ▲



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# Tips to Winterize Your Home

by George Lorson and Ed Meyers

The furnace is the heart of your heating system. Your energy bills directly reflect its efficiency in burning and distributing fuel. It probably represents the largest portion of your fuel bill.

Winterize your furnace by doing the following.

**Locate the furnace filter** which is inserted into a metal duct [tube] attached to the furnace. It is rectangular in shape and slides into a slot across the path of the heat usually at the bottom of the furnace. The filter is to allow heated air to pass through the pipe after filtering out particles to keep the heated air clean. After you remove the filter check the surface for contamination and vacuum it

clean if required as a temporary measure. Take the old filter with you to purchase the exact size and thickness replacement. Filters are inexpensive and have great payback on the heating bill.

**Have your furnace cleaned.**

Only a qualified heating technician should adjust the furnace pilot and burner mechanism. The technician can also lubricate the motor and adjust the fan blower mechanism if



required during the visit.

**Loose duct work** is best repaired by re-assembly and drilling holes for installing sheet metal screws to make a lasting fit. Wrap the repaired joint with tape designed for this purpose.

**Install a high efficiency furnace.** If the budget allows. You will notice improvements in your heating bills and improve the environment. Install a humidifier on the furnace which will keep you comfortable at a lower more economical temperature. If you need to put off a new furnace purchase now, install one to your present furnace. Another option is one or two portable humidifiers that you simply fill with water and plug in.

**Setting back the thermostat** in the evening does two things. One way you save energy is to

sleep more comfortably with the lower settings. Your home thermostat may allow you to manually turn up the thermostat in the morning to bring the temperature up to comfy range in time for showers, shaving and breakfast.

The automatic thermostat will turn temperatures down an hour before you retire and up an hour before beginning your day. These clever devices offer several options such as turning temperatures down again if everyone leaves for work and school. You guessed it--it will turn temperatures back up

again before you arrive home.

In addition to weekday settings, weekend options can be used.

The cost of these units can run from \$35 to \$60 and quickly pay for themselves through fuel savings. Removing the existing thermostat and reattaching two or three wires to the new unit is easy to do.

Each unit comes with complete printed instructions and additional information on a small CD that can be played on your computer. ▲

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## Insulate

### Insulate water tank in basement

Put your hand on the outside surface of the water tank. If the surface feels warm that means lost heat from the interior. Ready made blankets for water heaters can be purchased or simply wrap R33 insulation around the outside and secure in place. Be careful to keep any paper insulation backing away from the gas burner area at the bottom of the tank.

### Insulate hot water lines in the basement

Foam tubing with a slit along the length is an inexpensive covering for hot water lines. You will notice less run time after you open the faucet before hot water starts

to run out.

### Insulate the attic floor

Lay down strips of R 33 insulation across the floor joists. If a solid

floor is not present over the floor joists, use a piece of plywood for support to prevent putting a foot through the ceiling. ▲

## Insulate Checklist

- Insulate rim joist box in basement
- Insulate foundation wall above grade
- Install pre-made foam outlet covers on outlets on exterior walls
- Weather-strip exterior doors
- Insulate mail slots in exterior doors
- Caulk and seal any cracks/openings in foundation
- Insulate hot water tank in basement
- Insulate hot water lines in basement
- Insulate exterior walls if they currently have little or no insulation
- Insulate attic floor



## Make Your Home Energy Efficient with a NYSERDA Loan from NeighborWorks<sup>SM</sup>

By Abby Wade Brugno

In April 2008, NeighborWorks<sup>SM</sup> Rochester began offering low-interest home improvement loans designed specifically to make area homes more energy efficient.

NeighborWorks<sup>SM</sup> is the only City of Rochester-based organization certified by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to underwrite loans offered by the Energy Smart Loan Fund under the Home Performance with En-

ergy Star program.

A homeowner who gets a loan through the Energy Smart Loan fund normally would pay six percent interest. NeighborWorks<sup>SM</sup> is able to reduce that to a two percent interest rate. This program is available to qualified homeowners at all income levels.

"There are no income limitations on this loan, which makes it available to all homeowners in the City of Rochester," said Eric Van Dusen, Program Director for NeighborWorks Rochester<sup>SM</sup>. "The program is designed to of-

fer improved energy savings, the reduced cost of which helps offset the monthly loan payments, while at the same time helping the environment."

You may be qualified if you own and live in a one- to three-family house in the City of Rochester, and have RG&E as your utility carrier. You must also have an energy audit and the work must be done by a Home Performance certified contractor.

The maximum loan amount is \$4,999 and the two percent inter-

continued on page 7

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### Install Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Smart winterizers are switching to fluorescent bulbs. Light bulbs have two colors of light ~ "cool white" which is bright and "sunlight" which is natural looking.



With conventional light bulbs, about half the energy goes into light and the other half goes into heat. Place your finger on a fluorescent light bulb and it's a

cool to mild in temperature. Try that with a conventional bulb and you're sure to burn your finger. That's expensive heat, so switch over to fluorescent type bulbs.

About 95 % of conventional bulbs fail due to the filament. There is no filament in the new fluorescent and that means longer life in addition to reduced energy

consumption. Lack of a filament also means extended life in locations with some vibration such as ceiling fans. ▲

### Lights Checklist

- Install fluorescent light bulbs
- Turn off lights/TV/radio when not in use
- Run dishwasher for full loads only
- Run dryer for full loads only

### Heating Costs Expected to Rise

continued from page 1

expect to see an increase in their heating bill during the winter months. Even with an overall drop in the price at the pump, the costs of crude oil and gasoline are expected to be higher than they were last year. The price of crude oil is forecast to average \$116 a barrel this year -- up 60% from last year -- and then climb again next year to \$126 a barrel. Inhabitants of the Northeast face an estimated heating bill of up to \$2,700 this winter. According to *Consumer Reports*, the cost of heating one's home with oil has jumped 198% over the last five years.

Although onshore production of natural gas has been increased

this year, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike have curtailed oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to natural disasters, the energy market has been particularly volatile this year. While prices have fallen in recent months, utilities have been buying natural gas for the winter heating season throughout the year as prices have been fluctuating.

While it isn't getting any cheaper to heat a house, there are ways for homeowners to cut down on their bills. Here at *the Wedge* we've compiled a few tips for ways to save some money in the coming months. ▲

### Windows

- Lower and adjust storm windows
- Install storm windows where there are none
- Replace broken glass
- Close and lock windows for a tight seal
- Repair broken sash cords so sash works properly
- Close drapes at night to reduce air movement



## SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2008

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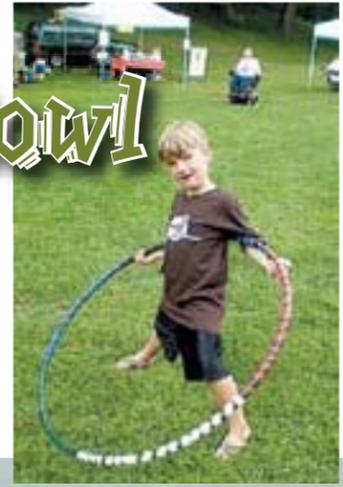
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# Wedgestock 2008 - Highland Bowl

**This year's Not Your Ordinary Annual Meeting was bigger and better than ever. Highland Bowl was filled with families having fun, neighbors meeting, music, crafts and tasty treats from local vendors.**



Spencer Koehl with hula hoop.



SWPC Community Coordinator Allison Clark with son Thomas, and husband Adam.



JoAnn Thomas, SWPC boardmember, and granddaughter Daisia.



Local band Java, with Vern Lindberg on guitar, gets the crowd rockin'.



The yum factor was high with PJ's Travelin' BBQ.



Ginny Cassetta helped kids build fairyhouses.



Neighbors stopped by.



SWPC boardmember John vanKerkhove and Piper.



Family and friends were having fun.



SWPC Boardmembers Gale Lynch and John Dennis took a dunking.

## KENRON CLEAN UP



Ron Maier, Shawn Maier, Tim Phillips, Ian Wells and Jason Hu cleaned up South Avenue.

## Wilson Days Volunteers



Wilson Day volunteers from the University of Rochester worked at 224 Mt. Hope Avenue.

## Landscape Artist Jeremy Wright Eases into Holiday 2008



Autumn decoration at the Wright house. Photo by Nancy O'Donnell

by Nancy O'Donnell

Jeremy Wright is only half joking when he says his model for holiday decorating is Clark Griswold, the Christmas-crazed family man in *National Lampoon's Holiday Vacation*.

Last year Wright used 4,000 lights to trim the outside of his Highland Park neighborhood home—all of them red.

"One neighbor did come over

singing *Roxanne*," laughs Wright although he emphasizes that the red came from a chaste collection of lights and winterberries on evergreen. This didn't stop several other neighbors from asking for him to do the same—or almost the same to their houses.

It's early autumn but Wright has already hung a massive wreath on his front door, planted 42 chrysanthemums and carefully placed a quiet riot of colorful

gourds on the steps leading to his home. This display will change for Halloween and then transform again when the Christmas season starts. That's when Wright pulls out all the stops.

"I love the holidays," says Wright. "I love the warmth it brings. I've used my knack to pick colors for home paints and in holiday seasonal displays."

Holiday themes at Chez Wright change every year as the artist plays with colors and textures. Last year's color was "red on red on red." This year the holiday artist plans on chartreuse, orange, lime and pomegranate.

Wright, who earned a degree in ornamental horticulture and landscape development from SUNY Alfred in 2002, is now decorating the homes of some of Rochester's boldfaced names like realtor Gar and Cindi Lowenguth and creating gorgeous interior landscapes in buildings like Sagamore on East luxury condominiums. He works closely with Wisteria Flowers and Gifts on Culver Road, who help him find the materials he wants for his designs and build the wreaths

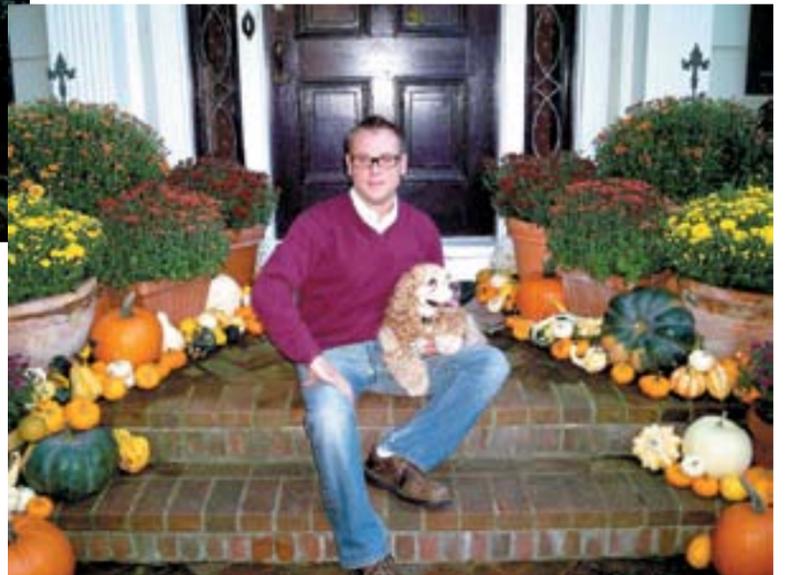
and garlands. "I don't go so far as use a glue gun," says Wright.

Many of his clients return each season because they trust his judgment and appreciate that they can go to work at 8 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. to find their home transformed into a winter wonderland.

With only a month or so before his favorite season begins, Wright is planning his original designs for the neighborhood he "absolutely loves."

"I love that I'm close to the great rhododendron specimens in Highland Park and on a quiet cul de sac in the middle of the city," says Wright.

*The Landscape Company, South Wedge, 729-1193. ▲*



Jeremy Wright and Sam, animal companion of 10 years, rest before Holiday Season 2008. Photo by Nancy O'Donnell

## GREEK FEST

September 2008

**Record crowds, Fabulous food and friends. Artwork and crafts. Opa!**

Brianne Evevsky, 12, selling raffle tickets. Photo: Taylor Whitney



Festivalgoers and cook enjoy the day. Photo: Taylor Whitney



Greek dancers line up for their performance. Photo: Taylor Whitney



The Highland Greek Festival attracted a record crowd this year. Photo courtesy of The Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit.

### Make Your Home Energy Efficient

continued from page 5

est rate is fixed for the term of the loan, which can be as long as five years. Among the improvements that can be made with the loan are furnaces, water heaters, insulation, and more, depending on what your energy audit shows.

For more information about

this and other home-improvement loan programs, call NeighborWorks<sup>SM</sup> at 585-325-4170. You can also visit their website at [www.nwrochester.org](http://www.nwrochester.org).

NeighborWorks Rochester is a non-profit, Community Development Financial Institution

(CDFI). Its mission is to support homeowners and first-time homebuyers by providing the resources necessary to sustain and strengthen Rochester's neighborhood housing markets. ▲

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By Allison Clark

**Farewell to Gale Lynch**

Neighbors, SWPC board members and Neighbors Council members all gathered on September 4 at the SWPC offices to say farewell and thank you to **Gale Lynch**. A long time resident of Hickory Street, Gale has served as Chair of Neighbors Council and has been on the SWPC board for eight years. She is credited with starting Neighbors Council and for spearheading Wedgestock, SWPC's unordinary Annual Meeting.

Gale has stepped down from both boards. Our deepest thanks go out to her for all of her dedication and commitment to the South Wedge community.

**St. Andrew's Church Slide Show Presentation Planned for November**

Marjorie B. Searl, Chief Curator at Memorial Art Gallery, will present a free slideshow on **Saturday, Nov. 1, 11 a.m. at Calvary St. Andrew's Church**. The show entitled, "Beauty and Blessings, Early Gifts to St. Andrew's Church," recounts the Watson Family's gifts to the church in early 1900. A guided tour follows the presentation, and refreshments will be served. Calvary St. Andrew's Church is located at 68 Ashland St. Free parking is available at the corner of South Avenue and Averill Avenue. For more information, call 325-4950.

**Neighborhood Block Clubs News**

Gregory and Ashland streets residents gathered at Marie Daley Park on August 30<sup>th</sup> for a hot dog

roast meet and greet hosted by SWPC. Residents were excited to meet new neighbors and visit with old friends. **Republican State Senator Joe Robach** (56<sup>th</sup> District) was in attendance to greet the neighbors.

**Gregory St. Open House**

**Rose O'Keefe** invites all Gregory Street residents to an open house, Sunday October 26 from 3-5 p.m. at 217 Gregory St.

Meet new neighbors or catch up with old friends. Refreshments will be served. Special prizes for kids in costume. Call Allison Clarke at 256-1740, ext. 106 for more details and to let us know you'll attend.

**Want a Block Club?**

If you would like to start a block club on your street and would like SWPC to host a meet and greet, contact Allison Clark at 256-1740, ext. 105.

**Swillburg Spooktacular** will be held on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 p.m. at the Artisan Church at 1235 S. Clinton Avenue. Admission is free. Expect games and prizes, a costume contest and fun for all ages. Pasta dinners, goodies and mulled cider will be available for purchase. Bring the whole family for this fun event and help support our neighbors!

**Swillburg to Hold Flat Panel TV & Cash Raffle!**

Swillburg is selling raffle tickets at \$5 a ticket. The 1st Prize is a Sharp Aquos 37" Flat Panel LCD Television, 2nd Prize is \$300 in cash. The drawing will be held in December, or as soon as all 500 tickets have been sold. You do not need to be present to win. You can get tickets at any Swillburg event or meeting or from any Executive Committee member.

**Calling All Dogs!**

Bring your four-legged friends and join your neighbors for a walk around Swillburg. Dog walkers will meet at 6:30 p.m. on the following dates at the following locations:

- October 8th - Otto Henderberg Park Gazebo
- October 22nd - Labyrinth Garden at Caroline, Pappert & Henrietta Streets
- November 5th - Art Panels on Pembroke Street
- November 19th - School 35 playground on Field Street

**Neighborhood Service Center has new Lieutenant.**

The Neighborhood Service

Center (formerly the NET Office) located on South Clinton has a full complement of police officers. The newly appointed leader is **Lt. Jay Maitland**, formerly from the Norton St. NET Office. Officers **Brian Bannerman** and **Brad Goater** take care of Sector 6 (the South Wedge is located in this sector). Officers **Steve Edgett** and **Herm**



River Park Commons resident Yvonne Williams and Market Co-founder Chris Hartman.

**Santos** are assigned to Sector 7 and Officers **Tony Bongiovanni** and **Rob Wetzel** are assigned to Sector 8. Please welcome all of these gentlemen to our neighborhood when you see them.

**River Park Commons Take Part in Senior Market Day**

On September 4<sup>th</sup>, seniors from River Park Commons each received Market tokens to spend at the South Wedge Farmer's Market. Participants used the tokens to purchase a variety of local fruits and vegetables.

**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 effect positive change in the community. Grants will not be made to individuals, partisan political organizations or to support lobbying efforts. Requests for capital projects also will not be considered. For more info, visit [www.mcjwilsonfoundation.org](http://www.mcjwilsonfoundation.org) or call 461-4696.

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

PAC-TAC helps residents to patrol neighborhood streets on foot, to keep watch for potential criminal activity and interact with residents and merchants. PAC-TAC meets on the third Thursday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Walks begin at the NSC Office on South Clinton. For more information, contact Allison Clark

continued on page 10

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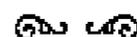
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Attn: Membership Drive  
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Rochester, NY 14620

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## Highland Diner Celebrates 60 years

"Nothing can be finer than dining at the diner"



By Nancy O'Donnell

This year Highland Diner will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, give or take a few years as an Off Track Betting Office. As a diner it's been celebrated in the *American Diner Cookbook*, immortalized in a Danbury Mint collectible sculpture and featured on *Diners, Dives and Drive-ins*, a TV show on A&E. However, devoted regulars return not because of its historical significance or celebrity status but for a menu of distinctive comfort food and a staff they regard as family.

Chrystal Snyder has worked at many diners around town, but Highland Diner is "the best."

"It has great clientele," said Snyder. "They're very loyal. They're like family. They really care. They notice if you're not here. On my birthday, they brought in a little cup cake."

Snyder points to regulars Carlie Fishgold, a MCC anthropology student, and builder Ehren Stark who leave their Monroe Avenue apartment three times a week for breakfast at the diner.

"They're awesome," said Snyder.

"I usually eat poached egg and toast," laughed Fishgold. "It's re-

ally cheap."

It's midmorning and the diner still bustles. Owner Van Zisis cooks behind the counter while the waitresses glide smoothly from table to table.

Jessica Brown has worked at the diner the longest of the current staff. When she had her daughter Annabelle, three years ago, regulars responded like family.

"They knitted blankets, brought in clothes and toys," said Brown.

Breakfasts at the diner are a special draw: Challa Bread French Toast, Nantucket Benedict (crabcake on English muffins). Other favorites are Greek mousaka made by the owner's father and the peanut butter and bacon sandwich on Texas toast.

Desserts have their followers especially the rice and bread puddings. Highland Diner's Apple Crumb pies, baked at The Special Touch Bakery at the School of the Holy Childhood, were honored in recent years by Conde Nast Trav-

eler Magazine as "the best in the country."

Snyder points out also the diner's speciality milkshakes especially the creamsicle and banana flavors.

The building too brings in people who like to travel back in time and to cram into a green booth or swirl around on a black stool at the counter.

The diner was manufactured by the Orleans Diner Company of Albion, NY in 1948, one of possibly three models. Historical records—the menu tells part of the story—indicate it would have been pre-built in the factory before being moved to the site. Its original name was Dauphin's Superior Diner. By 1974, the diner had closed and it was reinvented two years later as an OTB parlor. The building was bought and restored to Art Deco splendor in 1986 by Bob Malley. In 2000 Bob retired and sold the diner to Zsis.

It's "greatness" remains a



Crystal Snyder, Carlie Fishgold and Ehren Stark.

constant said Snyder. "It has great staff, great clientele, and the owner's great."

960 Clinton Ave S, (585) 461-5040. Hours: Monday 8-3 p.m., Tues.-Thurs. 7 a.m.-11 p.m., Sat. 7:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun. 7:30 p.m.-3 p.m. ▲

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Give us a call at 256.1740, ext. 102

## Tools, Power and Drywall: The Fall Knowledge Co-op Series

By David Halter

The South Wedge Planning Committee, in conjunction with David Halter of Epsilon Construction, is offering several Knowledge Co-Ops on basic tool use and home improvement projects.

This is a great opportunity for novices to become familiar with hand tools, power tools, dry wall and electrical work.

Classes will take place in Dave's workshop at 159 Caroline St. There is only room for six people in each class, so move quickly to obtain your spot!

The fee for each class is \$20; all tools and materials will be supplied.

Net proceeds will go to support the programs of the South Wedge Planning Committee. Call Matt Cadrette at SWPC to register (256-1740 ext 104).

### HAND TOOLS 101: Make A Letter Of The Alphabet By Hand

Date: Friday October 24, Time: 6 p.m.

A two-hour course designed to give you a chance to use a hand-saw, coping saw, wood plane, hand drill, wood files, a hammer and other hand tools.

### POWER TOOLS 101: Make The Same Letter With Power Tools

Date: Friday November 7, Time: 6 p.m.

This two-hour course will give you practice using a table saw, band saw, power planer, drill press and power sander.

### DRYWALL 101

Date: Friday November 21, Time: 6 p.m.

During this two-hour class, learn how to use a taping knife, corner tape, corner bead, screw guns, etc. This is a great opportunity for people who have very little knowledge of dry wall and wish to have a better understanding of it.

### HOUSEHOLD ELECTRIC 101

Date: Friday December 5 Time: 6 p.m.

This is a two-hour class designed to give you a chance to work on switches, plugs, testers, lights and so on. There is always a lot to learn about working with electricity, and this course will help you understand the basics about doing these tasks safely and more efficiently.

To register for these classes, call Matt Cadrette at 256-1740, ext. 104.

### Community Builders

continued from page 9

at 256-1740 ext. 106 or aclark@swpc.org.

### Dog Walkers Against Crime

The DWAC season ends on October 28th. The walkers (human and canine) will begin again Spring '09. Until then, they begin walking at 7p.m. from Marie Daley Park on Gregory St. If you have any questions or would like more information, email dogwalkers-againstcrime@gmail.com or visit www.southwedge.org.

**Reminder:** all dog walkers should always be on the lookout for any suspicious activity. Dog walkers see things other folks may not as they are walking morning, noon and night, and crime happens all the time. Remember, bring a cell phone, be aware and listen to your dog. Our dogs often have better instincts than us. The safety of the Wedge is up to all of the residents, even the four-legged variety. ▲

## Make Your Voice Count This Year. Vote in the U.S. Presidential Election on November 4th!

### Important dates to remember:

Last day to register to vote (by mail) - Oct. 10

Last day to register in person at Board of Elections - Oct.10-11.

Last day to mail an absentee ballot- Oct. 28

Last day to submit your absentee ballot in person at the Board of Elections - Nov. 3

### To find registration forms:

Forms should be available in most government offices, banks, post offices, libraries, and Tops Supermarkets. Ask for them if you don't see them.

Register in person at the Monroe County Board of Elections Office, 39 W. Main Street, Rochester, New York (M-F, 9 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.)

Call for a registration form- 585-753-1550.

### To find your polling place:

Online - www.monroecounty.gov (go to Board of Elections and then click "Voter information")

Call the Board of Elections- 585 753-1550

### Special info from the Board of Elections:

When registering to vote via the DMV, get the correct form. One form allows you to register for the first time, the other form is used if you've moved within Monroe County and wish to notify the Board of Elections of your new address to maintain active voting status. Also note it can take up to a month for registrations from the DMV and other social service agencies to reach the board. Your registration will be postmarked as of the date it is received by the Monroe County Board of Elections, not the date you sent it.

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## SWPC Community Calendar

### Finance Committee

Monday, October 6  
Monday, November 3  
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

### Housing & Overlay Committee

Wednesday, October 15  
Wednesday, November 19  
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

### NBN Sector 6

Monday, October 13  
Monday, November 10  
5:30 pm @ TBD

### PAC-TAC

Thursday, October 16  
Thursday, November 20  
6:00 pm @ 846 S Clinton Ave.

### Real Estate Team

Wednesday, October 22  
Wednesday, November 26  
6:00 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.

### Resource & Marketing Team

Wednesday, October 22  
Wednesday, November 26  
7:30 pm @ TBA

### SWPC Board of Directors

Thursday, October 9  
Thursday, November 13  
6:00 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.



## “Tool Tips”

By Ed Meyers,  
SWPC Tool Librarian

Standard library hours are 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are also open early on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Two Handy Tips – Changing Spark Plugs and Keeping Your Washer Fresh

Worn spark plugs cause a variety of problems from hard starting and poor fuel economy to misfires and even engine damage. So replace them at the manufacturer's recommended intervals. Changing plugs is a simple matter of unscrewing the old ones and screwing in the new ones. But there are a few things to keep in mind.

- Prevent debris from falling into the cylinder by brushing around the plug before you remove it. After removing the plug, wipe out the spark plug seat with a clean rag.
- If an old plug won't turn, don't resort to a bigger wrench. Brute force can cause major engine damage. Instead use a spray that instantly cools the plug, causing the metal to contract and loosen. Search for *CRC Freeze-Off* at around \$6.00 a can.
- Don't forget to set the gap of the

new plugs before installing. Use the right amount of force to tighten the plug. If you don't have a torque wrench, first finger tighten the plug. If the plug has a gasket, tighten an additional half turn. If the plug has a tapered seat, tighten it an additional one-sixteenth turn.

Notice a moldy smell when you open your front load washing machine?

Most people leave the washer door closed between loads and only wash a couple of loads per week. This is a problem because the air-tight seal on the front doesn't let the interior dry, and between washings mold can grow

in the damp confines. Because front loaders use less water than top loaders--which fill almost to the top--they don't always wash away the mold when you run a load of laundry.

Eliminating the mold is easy. Just run the empty washer through a cycle once a month with a mold cleaner designed for front loaders. One product for this is called *Alfresh*.

If you don't want to use the tablets, you can substitute a cup of bleach.

In the future, you can prevent mold by treating the washer monthly and keeping the door open between washing so the interior can dry out. ▲

**Two special people made tool donations to our library this month.**

Thanks to Patricia Willis and Art Thompson

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**Riverfront Transformation**

*continued from page 1*

river or the neighborhood; it simply reconstructed the cement wall that exists today on the site. It was in essence single-family architecture applied to multifamily buildings. The design was not of appropriate scale, did not promote a "walkable" development and did not incorporate the site's assets.

Architects Barton Partners recognized the river, the city skyline and the neighborhood as assets that needed to be included in their site plan.

In contrast, the new design is tailored to the site. The plan has 130 units with a mix of one,

two and three bedroom flats and town homes. This will allow the development to appeal to a broader resident base and create a more diverse community.

There are now six buildings and a clubhouse. A 5-storey building over parking on the Ford Street Bridge side is included. The five three-storey buildings have been placed on the site in different ways to break up the "wall effect" and to increase the river and city skyline views.

The distinctive design does not attempt to mimic anything. It is very people scale and walkable.

It includes a generous use of windows and porches. The flat roofs provide more rooftop living and reflect the nature of buildings on the east side of Mt. Hope.

In addition, the design complements an already architecturally diverse neighborhood. The Wedge is an eclectic mix of architectural styles including 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Vernacular, Queen Anne, Bungalow, American Four Square, Italianate, Greek revival, art deco and modern.

The architectural connection to the neighborhood is through the use of architectural materials (brick and "hardiplank"). There is a liberal use of blues and yellows for the coloring.

The existing 13-story tower will be integrated with the new buildings by the use of a color pattern consistent with that used in the new buildings. The interior of the high rise, renamed "The Hamilton," will be also be completely remodeled.

Most important, the developer intends to incorporate as many



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"green" building practices as possible on the site.

The timeline now is to complete the relocation of existing residents before the end of the year, start demolition in early 2009 and begin construction in the summer of 2009 with occupancy in 2010.

This will provide additional

housing options for those who wish to live in the South Wedge. The new residents will no doubt contribute to the sustainability of our businesses and become part of the fabric of the neighborhood.

River Park is dead! Long live Erie Harbor and the Hamilton! ▲

**Homeowners...**

Need a new roof or furnace? Concerned about Lead Paint?

Don't wait until next Spring to contact SWPC to find out if you qualify for help with the cost of home repairs.

For more information, call Eileen Thomas 256-1740, ext. 103.

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