



FREE

PAGE 2  SWPC HQ gets a Facelift!

PAGE 5  Pinky's Pet Connection Bakery/Barkery Opens on South Ave.

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

Community Studies Plan for South Clinton Avenue Enhancements

By Eilleen Thomas

On Thursday, November 6, 20 or more neighbors and business owners gathered to hear City Engineer Rich Koss, and Dennis Kennelly and Mark Bellavia from FRA Engineering, present information on street enhancements planned for South Clinton Ave.

The meeting was sponsored by the Evolving South Clinton Avenue Places and Environments (ESCAPE) Committee to provide an opportunity for the community to provide input on the project. Artisan Church was the host. Those attending offered their support and provided a number of thoughtful suggestions.

Pending final approval by the City, curb bump-outs and colorful new crosswalks will be installed at intersections along the Avenue from Byron Street to South Goodman Street beginning in Spring

2009. The main objectives are to reduce traffic speed and make it easier for pedestrians to cross the avenue.

Many of the proposed new crosswalks will use Thermoplast® to make them more visible to drivers. Thermoplast® is a durable polymer material that is imbedded into the asphalt. It comes in a variety of colors and patterns, so it can be tailored to the neighborhood and highlight intersections. If you would like to see an example, the crosswalks at Meigs & Linden and at Cornhill Landing were done this way.

The current plan for the intersection of South Goodman and South Clinton calls for some special treatment to highlight this important crossroads. In addition to four new Thermoplast® crosswalks, the pavement in the center of the intersection will have a contrasting finish – the final material

still has to be chosen.

"I'm pleased and excited for the community, and grateful to all the business owners and residents who made such great contributions this effort," said Matt Purdue, chair of ESCAPE. "With the street design work commencing in the spring, I look forward to a renewed urban commercial district that offers viable retail and commercial options for our residents and neighbors."

The South Clinton Avenue street enhancements are made possible by a \$750,000 Multi-Modal grant secured for ESCAPE by Assembly Representative Susan John. Thanks also to Dan Buyer, former Executive Director of SWPC, and Helen Hogan, Executive Director of SEAC, for their efforts in obtaining these funds. Multi-Modal funds are administered on behalf of the neighborhood by the City of Rochester. ▲

Second Main Street Grant Targets South Clinton Ave.

By Eilleen Thomas

Improvements to three commercial properties and additional streetscape enhancements will be coming to the northern end of South Clinton Ave, thanks to the New York Main Street (NYMS) Program.

Several proposals were submitted to the Evolving South Clinton Avenue Places and Environments (ESCAPE) Committee during a competitive application

period earlier this year. The ESCAPE Committee reviewed the proposals and selected these three:

- ABVI Goodwill: renovation and facade improvements to 526 South Clinton Ave which will be the new location of its Call Center operations. This is part of a larger, multi-million dollar

project that will consolidate ABVI Goodwill's employment and low-vision programs onto one campus. The new campus will improve access and safety for consumers and employees alike.

- Medical Motor Services: facade and streetscape improvements

continued on page 12

The Votes Are In... Best of Rochester 2008

City Paper announced their "Best of Rochester 2008" awards at a party at Village Gate on Nov. 12. South Wedge winners included:

- | | |
|--|---|
| BEST DINER
Highland Park Diner | BEST PARK
Highland Park |
| BEST NEW RESTAURANT
Tap & Mallet | BEST OPEN MIC
Boulder Coffee Company |
| BEST CLOTHING STORE
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Highland Park |
| BEST ANTIQUE STORE
Historic Houseparts | BEST DJ
DJ A-Ko
<i>Aka Wedge Resident Rob Sichelco</i> |

Another neighborhood favorite also received kudos...sort of. The paper's Critics' Choice Award noted "the South Wedge Skillet," a mound of scrambled eggs, French fries and cheddar cheese served at the South Wedge Diner as "Best Excuse for a Heart Attack."

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Keep Your Cash in the Wedge. Shop Local (see page 7)

SWPC headquarters gets a face lift

By George Lorson

Major building improvements are now underway at the SWPC headquarters at 224 Mt. Hope Avenue thanks to a grant from the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation. Exterior renovations commenced in late October and are expected to be completed by the end of November. The staff at SWPC has been working for over 18 months to assemble and fine tune the funding application for this highly competitive State program and was successful in obtaining \$93,000 for the work this fall.

During renovations, SWPC will function as the General Contractor for this project and the work will be supervised by George Lorson of the SWPC staff.

Last winter, due to an extreme freeze and thaw effect, the brick façade over the second floor of the building on the Mt. Hope Avenue side began to fail and crumble. As a result, the upper portion of the brick façade is being removed and new brick is being installed.

The work is being completed by an area masonry contractor, G D & V Construction Corp, along with Peter Quinzi Construction, Inc. In addition, they will also remove two sets of steps in front of the building and install one new set leading to the front door. Along with this work much of the deteriorated concrete sidewalk on Mt. Hope Avenue will also be replaced.

Another welcome improvement will be the removal of the existing wood ramp at the parking lot side of the building and the installation of an ADA compliant concrete ramp. The new ramp will extend past the entry door and the overhead door to the Tool Library. New iron railings will be installed for the steps and the ramp by Rochester Stair and Railing, Inc.

The flat roof on the SWPC building has reached the end of its useful life. It will be totally removed down to the roof boards and a new roofing system will be installed. This system will include new rigid R-20 polyiso insulation for energy conservation and that will be covered by a 20-year

EPDM membrane roof (sometimes referred to as a rubber roof). This work will be completed by our neighbor down the street, Spring Sheet Metal & Roofing Company, Inc.

Other work to be included in this project will be new signage and awning covering by Pierrepoint Visual Graphics, Inc, replacement of damaged storefront windows on Mt. Hope Avenue by Flower City Glass, a new rear entry door by Dave Halter and Historic House Parts and brick pointing by Peter Quinzi Construction, Inc. ▲



Top and bottom right: The facade of 224 Mt. Hope gets a face lift.

Right: Contractors remove the old wooden ramp.

Photos by George Lorson



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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.

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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.

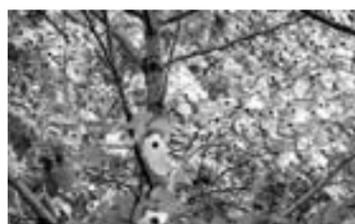
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THINK GLOBAL
Shop Local!

By Nancy O'Donnell

The Highland Park Neighborhood Association Wants Your Tree!

The Highland Park Neighborhood Association's (HPNA) campaign to find the best of the best trees in the neighborhood began as a great idea of HPNA's Communications chairperson Michael Tomb and his wife Marcia Zach.



Dove Tree

Dove Tree. Photo by Michael Tomb

The couple began researching the Ellwanger Barry Nursery's legacy in the neighborhood. "By 1899, Ellwanger Barry Nursery had saturated the market worldwide, and they turned to real estate," said Tomb who now knows a great deal about the nursery. It took three tries before the city would accept Highland Park as a gift from Ellwanger and Barry. Lilac Festivals began with the first impromptu one in the early 1900s.

"A local newspaper wrote that Highland Park had 100 varieties of lilacs," said Tomb. "People started showing up spontaneously."

Tomb said that not enough people know the Park is not just about lilacs. "There are 118 pine trees varieties. [Its] actual name is Highland Botanical Park." "It's not promoted, but the park is a living museum of trees. They maintain varieties that are known throughout the world," said Tomb.

Over the last few months, residents have submitted photos and stories to nominate their trees for a proposed HPNA walking tour. And as for the winner of some of the 20-25 submitted nominees? Tomb won't say.

HPNA plans to announce "Rochester's Favorite Tree" during the Lilac Festival 2009. The group also plans a web display of all contributions. "The most fun tree [nominated] is the [pocket] handkerchief 'Dove Tree' behind the Highland Bowl," said Tomb. "When it blossoms it looks like it's filled with handkerchiefs or white doves."

The House that Grace Built

For 37 years Grace Epstein lived with her husband in an 1879 house on Averill Avenue. Its long history included a former owner, a circus performer who would string up a wire between two poles to entertain the neighborhood children with high wire acts.

When the house burned down on February 18, Epstein, now widowed, might have given up. Instead, Epstein rebuilt the house on the same spot.

"I love the Wedge," said Epstein, still in temporary lodgings in Greece. "I miss my walking partner. I miss talking over the fence to Sharon Turner. I miss my neighbor Elliot."

The City of Rochester gets high praise from Grace's brother, Ken Collins. "The [City] was fantastic—the zoning board, the planning board, inspectors."

"A guardian angel helped me rebuild," said Epstein, who didn't want to be more specific with his or her name.

Epstein is happy, however, to list the names of others who helped her.

"My brother coordinated everything with the architect James



Photo by Nancy O'Donnell

Fahy," said Epstein. "Then there was the builder Jim Beehler and his marvelous crew...Bob Crowley with all his bobcats that dug the



Photo by Nancy O'Donnell

holes."

Construction began in June, and by November the 1879 house resurrected as a one-story, 12x30' house with a two-car garage. The old barn remained but is now covered with a fresh coat of "Mexican chili" paint.

Still waiting for a certificate of occupancy, Epstein is ready to come home to her new brightly colored home in the Wedge.

South Wedge Musician Wants His Drums Back

Don Howcroft likes life in the Wedge, and never had any

complaints, until last October when his drums were stolen. "My car was on off street parking," wrote Howcroft in an e-mail plea for help. "Someone came... to smash my passenger rear window and take all my Drum Set. I would really appreciate my flier to be seen."

If you have any information, contact raydar40@aol.com or visit <http://i161.photobucket.com/albums/t208/raydar58/DrumPoster.jpg> for more information.



New South Wedge business Aids Those Mourning Pet Loss

Ed Rusnak, a licensed funeral director for 21 years, now helps those grieving the loss of their pets.

"Loss of a pet is excruciating," said Rusnak, who shares space with Pinky's Pet Connection.

His new business, The Pet Memorial Center of Rochester LLC helps pet owners face the "death of a beloved pet" in advance along with services that include "24/7 availability...transfer of [the pet] in a respectful, dignified and timely manner" and paw print and hair clipping keepsakes.

Rusnak also provides burial and cremation guidance and a "full funeral service if desired."

In addition, the center carries cremation urns, some in the shape of a certain breed of dog, burial makers and remembrance art (portraits and sculptors).

continued on page 4

Swillburg's Artisan Church Hosts Winter Farmers Market

The folks who brought you the South Wedge Farmers Market at Boulder Coffee Company will keep the market open this winter at Artisan Church on South Clinton. The market plans to open December 18 and continue on the third Thursday of every month, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Expected vendors include 7 Bridges Farm (grass fed beef), Hedonist Chocolates, and assorted bread and coffee merchants.

"We're excited to serve our

neighborhood," said Pastor Jason Condon. "And to promote local farmers and merchants."

The Artisan Church promotes "essential biblical values [of] Awe, Beauty, Roots, Community, & Justice." Its own community garden provides vegetables for a dinner that follows evening services on Sunday. For more information, visit www.artisan-church.org

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South Wedge Resident Voted City's Best DJ

Rob Sickelco, aka as DJ A-Ko, serves customers by day at Open Face Sandwich Eatery, but by night he creates dance music that's growing crowds to area clubs: Tilt, the Bug Jar and Spie.

"It's more of a live show than just playing vinyls and MP3s," said Sickelco. "There's a lot more that you can do. I see turnables

as instruments and you can use tricks and techniques [to create music].

He hopes the City Paper's Best of Rochester 2008 Awards will help him "get to play more often." But as for giving autographs?

"I suppose if someone asks," laughed Sickelco. ▲

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By Allison Clark

**BASWA sponsors
Swing in the New Year**

Once again, BASWA is hosting Swing in the New Year at the German House on Gregory Street on December 31. This year *The Hi-Risers* and *The John Cole Blues Band* will be the headliners. The event runs from 7:30-1:00 a.m. and includes light hors d'ouvres, desserts, champagne toast, Survival Swing Lessons, and a great Silent Auction of goods from area businesses. Tickets are \$25 pre-sale and \$30 at the door. Tickets will be available after Nov 15th at Coffee Connection, Boulder Coffee, Historic Houseparts, and The Keg.

**Wedge Businesses
Light up South Avenue**

Local businesses and business owners -Kenron, Lux Lounge, Konar Properties, Hedonist Chocolates, Dave Halter, Bob Boyd, Caverly's Irish Pub—contributed funds to power the lights of 14 trees on South Avenue.

"We hope to do more," said Chris Jones, BASWA president.

Jones also praised Peter Saxe and Terry McEntree from the City of Rochester for helping in the project.

To light up in front of your business, call Chris at 325-2329.

**Neighborhood Block
Clubs News**

Gregory Street residents Rose O'Keefe and Bob Meadows hosted a Halloween Open House for all Gregory Street residents. Neighbors enjoyed refreshments and children had the opportunity to show off their Halloween costumes and take home a goodie bag. A big thanks to Rose O'Keefe and Bob Meadows for hosting this event.

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 for more information at 256-1740, ext. 105.

**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.

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 pm. Walks begin at the NET Office on South Clinton. For more information, contact Allison Clark at 256-1740 ext. 106 or aclark@swpc.org.

Dog Walkers Against Crime
The DWAC season ended

on October 28th. The walkers (human and canine) will begin again Spring '09. 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 we do. The safety of the Wedge is up to all of the residents, even the four-legged variety. ▲

Holiday
Decorating
Contest

By Allison Clark

BASWA is hosting a Holiday Decorating Contest for local businesses to help the neighborhood glow with holiday cheer. To participate, a business needs to decorate their storefronts by Nov 30 to be included in the judging, which takes place Dec 1. The judges include a community resident, and staff from City Hall and the Neighborhood Services Center. First Prizes are \$300, \$200, \$100 for first, second, and third prize. For more information, call Chris Jones at 325-2329.

**Heart of the City**
*continued from page 3***Tex Mex Owner Expands
Business on South Avenue
Corner**

John Roth, of John's Tex Mex Eatery fame, has joined forces with partner Jay Schrieber, "another Wedgie," to open a new convenience store at South Avenue and Alexander Street.

"We're gutting the entire inside, [adding] new lighting, ceiling,

exterior lighting," said Roth. "And we'll fill it with decent products and good beer. A notch above [the standard convenience store]."

Roth, who's three years into running John's Tex Mex Eatery, is being practical in the current economy.

"People may stop eating out, but they'll still need their beer, cigarettes and lottery tickets," said Roth. Not to mention milk, bread and other foods. ▲

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New Pet Boutique & "Barkery" Opens on South Avenue

By Nancy O'Donnell

South Wedge pet lovers are positively pink with pleasure with the arrival of Pinky's Pet Connection, a pet boutique and "barkery" newly opened on South Avenue.

"I got a very good response from the neighborhood," said 21-year-old owner Damaris Rivera. "The foot traffic said they were 'blown away. They all said, 'It's so cute.' They were really excited."

Inside the predominately pink store, Rivera has gathered everything a pampered pet could want--Doggie Brew Vitamin Water flavored with "beef, chicken and pork" and Biscottis, "doughmutts" and "pupcakes."

"[The bakers] use all natural human grade ingredients," said Rivera although she admits she's hasn't yet taken a swig or a chew of her stock.

Also on hand are small tents for the reclusively inclined cats and dogs, pooch purses for portable pups, pet jewelry (clips and necklaces) and "Color Paw," bright nail polishes "safe for pets." Pet cologne—"strong enough for a man but made for a Chihuahua" is also a big seller.

Also available is fur friend couture, sizes XS-XL, that goes

way beyond Halloween costumes. Think dresses with complimentary leashes and a white pea coat with Chanel overtones.

"Some people buy a pet outfit every week," said Rivera. "It's not just for holidays. I have a lot of gay and lesbian couples who love their pets like a child."



Damaris Rivera at her boutique and barkery.
Photo by Johannes Bockwoldt

The petite business powerhouse only began pet sitting three years ago although she's had a passion for pets and the color pink for as long as she can imagine. "My wardrobe is pink [for the most part]," said Rivera. "I even drive a pink car my father found for me."

(She calls her salmon pink Ford Contour her "pet taxi.")

When it comes to furry friends, she's always felt a "special connection."

"I thought you could talk to animals," said Rivera. "I used to talk a special language to Lucky, my hamster."

The School of the Arts vocal major graduate originally planned on a music career. After one semester at Berklee School of Music in Boston, she decided to return home, "trying to figure out" what she wanted to do with her life.

Rivera began pet sitting and dog walking, but soon set her sights on pet retail. She opened her first pet supply shop in the Railroad St. Station near the Public Market, but she always had her eye on the Wedge.

"I like to see things transform," said Rivera

Rivera credits her success to a community of supportive associates, friends and family.

"BASWA was very supportive and George Gotschik at SWPC," said Rivera. "My family never limited what I wanted to do. I'd come up with some crazy idea, and my father would say, "go ahead." In turn, Rivera said she wants to support other local businesses

and entrepreneurs.

"Doggie Brew is made in Syracuse," said Rivera, who also pointed to pet portraits by local artist Cliff Bull.

Rivera especially credits area business owner Deb Cleveland with inspiring her to "think big" and buy the building that houses Pinky's P.C.

"I was planning to rent, and then I met the lovely Debra," said Rivera. Cleveland helped her to purchase the building, which includes another storefront that she plans to rent out.

"[Cleveland] gave me the whole idea," said Rivera. "Where could I go to find a property like this?"

With her "one stop shop" theme, Rivera also shares her shop with Ed Rusnak, a licensed funeral director, who has turned his talents "keeping your pet's memory alive" through his Pet Memorial Center of Rochester (see Heart of the City, page 3).

Rivera continues to get big ideas about the future of Pinky Pet Connections. In spring she wants to start serving coffee (to her client's human companions), offer WIFI and refashion the building's backyard into a fenced-in play space for pets.

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continued on page 10

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Renewing Massage Joins Rochester Community Acupuncture Clinic (RCAc)

By Nancy O'Donnell

Licensed massage therapist Colin Coffey will soon be joining Rochester Community Acupuncture Clinic (RCAc) to bring a new model of health care to the South Wedge.

His new business, Renewing Massage, offers a one-hour Swedish or deep tissue massage for only \$50. He too shares the philosophy of RCAc—making a relaxation and health resource easily accessible and affordable to a great number of people.

"When my parents left Ireland, my mother worked as a maid and my father worked in a mental hospital," said Coffey. "My background is working class. I like the whole model of providing affordable treatments."

Coffey will also bring a valuable resource to the deaf community in Rochester; he's currently studying American Sign Language at the U of R Medical Center (the only student not affiliated with the Center to take the class). He plans to graduate in spring.

Coffey grew up in Hertfordshire, outside of London. He flirted with the idea of becoming a massage therapist while in England, "but the timing wasn't right." In 1994, Coffey moved to Houston, Texas for graduate school and earned an M.B.A. in Business Administration two years later.

"I wanted to stay in the U.S.," said Coffey. "So I began recruiting info techs during the millennium scare." Another job had less of a future.

"I found a chance to go to India to outsource my job in person," laughed Coffey, who decided to rethink his career plans.

When his partner Michael Brundage, decided to return to Rochester, the couple moved to a home in the South Wedge.

Coffey decided to think again about studying massage therapy.

"I met with [people from] the Onandaga School of Therapeutic Massage and within six months I was in boot camp—1,000 hours in six months" studying anatomy, mycology and movement.

It wasn't a difficult choice to set up his studio in the Wedge; he can walk to work everyday.

"I love the Wedge and I wanted to keep my carbon imprint low," said Coffey.

728 South Avenue, (585) 287-5183. www.renewingmassage.com. Hours by appointment. ▲



Colin Coffey. Photo by Johannes Bockwoldt

Red Cross & RG&E Partner to Prevent Home Utility Shut Downs

By Nancy O'Donnell

The Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Rochester Gas & Electric (RG&E) recently began a year round program partnership designed to prevent utility disconnections and help those with a utility emergency.

The Red Cross/RG&E Utility Assistance and Matching Incentive Program will also help RG&E customers to lower an outstanding balance to decrease the chances of future disconnections.

Three funds are available to individuals who live within the RG&E nine county territory: General, Senior and Military. The general fund requirements include: a shut off notice or a similar

emergency (lack of fuel oil, wood or propane), income guidelines, an existing bill totaling not more than \$3,000. Only one assistance grant is available within a one-year period. Senior Fund guidelines require individuals to be 60 years or older and to meet income guidelines. The senior assistance grant will be a one-time payment of \$200. The Military Fund is available to the immediate families of active duty military personnel with identification. Income guidelines are waived for the military fund program.

To learn more, call (585) 241-4474. Applicants can be seen by appointment only. Applications can also be made at the regional Red Cross chapter offices. ▲

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New South Wedge Clinic Aims for Affordable Acupuncture

By Nancy O'Donnell

The new Rochester Community Acupuncture Clinic (RCAc) on South Avenue has one goal in mind—to make the 5,000-year-old Chinese healing treatment accessible and affordable to those who need it most.

"Most people are fed up with the [Western] solution to health problems—drugs and surgery," said Angela Pauling, spokesperson for the clinic and South Wedge resident. "In this economy people can't afford to spend \$85 [for acupuncture]; it seems like a luxury item."

Acupuncture today is commonly used to treat pain as well as a wide host of ailments: arthritis, allergies, chemotherapy-related nausea and ulcerative colitis. It also can be used to treat infertility and in alleviating nicotine and drug or alcohol addiction.

The four acupuncturists—Julie Murante, Janeane Klinger, Leslie Mentel, Angela Pauling—use as their model Portland, Oregon's Working Class Acupuncture. This center argues that as the practice becomes more "mainstream" it has become "prohibitively expensive," but it doesn't have to be.

The clinic will practice TCM or traditional Chinese medicine. In this form, patients recline in chairs and receive auricular treatment in an open setting with plants or screens to provide some privacy and not the "spa model."

"My dad was bricklayer. He would never have wanted to climb on a table," said Pauling. "I found that a lot of people like the group process."

Pauling originally taught high school English and worked in publishing. She turned to acupuncture when she herself was treated for insomnia. "After my first treatment I thought if I could do anything, this would be it," said Pauling.

After earning her license at New York Chiropractic School, Angela



Acupuncturists (counterclockwise l-r) Julie Murante, Janeane Klinger, Leslie Mentel, Angela Pauling. Photo: Johannes Bockwoldt

discovered that fellow classmate Klinger shared a similar philosophy of affordable acupuncture. Soon the two were joined by Murante, also a new graduate, and Mentel who had already been in private practice in Fairport for several years.

Acupuncture treatments at RCAc will cost \$15-\$35 on a sliding scale to ensure that "people

will come more often, once a week, twice a week."

The clinic, which also dispenses herbal therapies in their treatment, hopes to create a dispensary for other Rochester practitioners.

Rochester Community Acupuncture Clinic, (RCAc), 728 South Avenue, (585) 287-5183. www.rochestercommunityacupuncture.com. ▲



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**NeighborWorks Repair Loans Aid Homeowners and Landlords**

By Eileen Thomas

NeighborWorks Rochester has two loan products that add to the options available for moderate income homeowners and landlords who need to repair their properties.

For homeowners: A low-interest home repair loan program for City of Rochester residents who own and live in one- to four-family homes is available. A property inspection and a lead risk assessment are required. Any lead-based paint hazards present must be included as part of the repairs that will be done.

Priority is given to health and safety repairs, but homeowner requests can be considered.

The NeighborWorks Technical Services staff assists homeowners with defining a Scope of Work, selecting contractors through a competitive bidding process, and providing construction oversight.

This loan program is not restricted only to lower income homeowners. However, you must have enough income to accommodate a loan payment, have a reasonable credit score, and not have been late paying your mortgage during the past year.

A \$50 application fee is required. Interest rates on the loan vary from 6% to 7%, depending on the term of the loan. Loans may have terms of up to 15 years.

For landlords: Few programs exist to assist landlords in the greater Rochester area with needed repairs to their rental units. NeighborWorks Rochester developed this program to address that need.

The program eligibility requirements are similar to those of the homeowner program (see above). In addition, you must attend a Landlord Loan Orientation, and have a Competitive Market Analysis done to determine the value

of your rental property. You must also agree to rent the assisted property to low- to moderate-income tenants.

A \$50 application fee and a fee of \$45 for the Competitive Market Analysis is required. The interest rate varies between 7% and 9%, based on risk. Loans may have terms of up to 10 years.

For more information on these and other NeighborWorks loan programs, call Laura Danacic at 585-325-4170, or visit the website at www.nwrochester.org.

NeighborWorks Rochester is a non-profit Community Development Financial Institution and a HUD Approved Housing Counseling Agency. NeighborWorks is a certified member agency of NeighborWorks America. We collaborate with others in the community to strengthen, sustain and promote our city's neighborhoods. ▲

What's Paid in the Wedge

continued from page 7

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continued on page 11

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SWPC Community Calendar**Finance Committee**Monday, December 1
Monday, January 5
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.**Housing & Overlay Committee**Wednesday, December 17
Wednesday, January 21
Noon @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.**NBN Sector 6**Monday, December 8
Monday, January 12
5:30 pm @ Monroe Co Parks
Dept**PAC-TAC**Thursday, December 18
Thursday, January 15
6:00 pm @ 846 S Clinton Ave.**SWPC Board of Directors**Thursday, October 9
Thursday, November 13
6:00 pm @ 224 Mt. Hope Ave.**“Tool Tips”**By Ed Meyers,
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Every handyman and woman will find home repair jobs easier when they have the right equipment. Top of the list for me are a good tool belt, the tool bucket and access to a compound miter saw.

The tool belt

Carpentry jobs are easier when your tools are organized in a tool belt because you spend less time searching for the right tool.

Standard features for tool belts include slots for screwdrivers, files, a carpenter's pencil and utility knife, at least one hammer loop and a deep pouch or two for carrying nails and screws. Many belts also have a slot for a tape measure and a hook for hanging a small level.

Think about the tools you use most often and choose a tool belt that has the right number of slots, pockets or loops for your tool load. The more varied the tasks you will be handling, the more elaborate the belt should be.

If you carry a lot of tools on your belt, a pair of suspenders

can be useful. Suspenders release some of the weight from your hips. Several companies offer suspenders designed to attach to your tool belt.

The tool bucket

For projects that require tools you can't fit into your belt, consider a tool bucket apron. This involves a metal or plastic bucket you can store tools in. The apron fits around the bucket top rim and drapes down the outside edge. The many pockets in the apron allow additional tool storage around the outside bucket wall. In addition to extra tool storage, good visibility and easy access to tools make this a worthwhile investment.

Compound miter saw

The tool library is blessed to own a Bosch compound sliding miter saw. The slide feature allows wider stock to be cut than is possible with non-sliding miter saws. These saws have but all replaced the larger radial arm saws. In addition to portability, the miter saws hold their settings better than radial arm saws. That means a lot less tweaking and resetting adjustments. With the miter saw, you can cut straight across the board and angles right or left of a square cut. Further capability allows compound cuts which are also angled against straight cross cut and secondary angled against the vertical cut. It really replicates all the motions and angles of cutting by hand. ▲

What's Paid in the Wedge*continued from page 10***THE TAP AND MALLET**Rochester's destination for fine beers and freshly cooked pub food. Just voted Rochester's Best New Restaurant in 2008 in City Paper contest. Open Monday - Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 2 a.m. (serving a full menu until midnight). Sunday 4 p.m. - midnight (serving a full menu til 10 p.m.) **381 Gregory Street, 473-0503, www.tapandmallet.com.****THREAD**A boutique that specializes in men's and women's clothing: locally made, and from small designers from Brooklyn to L.A. Check out designers like Paul Frank, Obey, Gentle Fawn, Cheap Monday, American Apparel and more! Housewares, gadgets, gifts and original art and more. Open Mon-Sat 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun 12 p.m.-4 p.m. (for the holidays). **654 South Avenue, 232-7110, www.myspace.com/threadrochester.****And there are so many more gift ideas from our advertisers...**new plumbing from * Atias Plumbing, 1023 South Clinton Ave., 271-3460, * a new tile floor, Bay Tile, 760 South Clinton Avenue, 244-2377 * Blueie, tech aid for your computer, 820-3617. The list goes on. Support our advertisers in the new year!**SAVE GAS.****SHOW CLASS.****THINK GLOBAL.****SHOP LOCAL.**

Tales from an Urban Neighborhood

By Robert Schnacky

Long before the coining of the name South Wedge, this area of Rochester was generally referred to as the "Southside".

Two community business districts thrived along portions of South Clinton Ave and South Ave, much as there is today. (Mt. Hope Ave. is not included, as its character was far different and not dependent on the local community.)

What was different during the 30's, 40's and 50's was that these businesses were able to provide all of the daily and weekly services needed by the surrounding neighborhoods. We recently learned that during those decades, one could find over twenty locations where bread could be purchased just on South Ave. alone -- not so today.

Commerce along these avenues was generally small and family owned. Many of the buildings had been used as residences and were changed over time to business use, most likely responding to the needs of the immediate residential areas.

I will be a little venturesome and recall just some of these businesses: Blanda's Fruit & Vegetables, Fanny Hayden's Candy, Miller's Bakery, Gerako's Ice Cream, B. Rosenberg Shoes, Abeles Butcher, Lauterbach Hardware, Roxy Movie Theater and Klein's Drugstore. It should be noted

that where Poestler & Jaeckle is located today was Siebart Auto, a major car dealer. These were just a few along South Ave. Many business uses were repeated again on South Clinton Ave.

We had everything from funeral homes to restaurants. In those days there were no ethnic restaurants or fast food. Coffee was served with your meal.

Modern amenities back then were neon signs, air conditioning for a lucky few, and black and white TVs at your local watering hole, of which there were many.

Shopping for your regular needs was a local adventure, and often required several stops. For major items we went to Main Street for what was then "downtown shopping" at marvelous facilities, some with national recognition such as Sibley's. There was nothing you couldn't buy there, available at short distance and by public transit.

Time has brought many changes to our "Southside" community. What might be one of the most significant? Well, from the 30's to the 50's the city trolley system was still a principle means of transportation that helped define our community.

Two of the trolley's major lines were "South Ave to St. Paul" and "South Clinton to Joseph Ave". Along both routes were heavy steel poles supporting an overhead "net" of wire and cable, mixed in with the stately trees that formed an urban

canopy.

A pair of tracks in the middle of the street discouraged speedy auto travel. Wooden boxes filled with sand along steeper portions of the routes provided traction to allow the trolley to pass through what was then called the "hill area".

The "South Ave." line crossed to Mt. Hope Ave. via Stewart St.; that's why this residential street is so wide. It continued on to service the fast growing city/suburban areas around Strong Hospital, via Crittenden Blvd. The trolley terminated at Genesee Valley Park providing city residents with much needed recreational space.

In those days, if one looked past

the Southside community they would see vast open and primarily agricultural areas. Who could have imagined back then what was to come with the growth of these areas officially outside the city, courtesy of the impending auto age?

At the end of "the trolley era", with the widening of the main thoroughfares and Dutch Elm Disease, we lost the urban canopies that sheltered our commercial neighborhood centers.

Out of these and many other transformations, especially during the 60's, would eventually come the new community groups such as "South Wedge" that many more "urban tales". ▲

Second Main Street Grant

continued from page 1

to its new main office at 608 South Clinton Ave. Improvements, including landscaping, signage and masonry restoration, will update the facade and enhance the appearance of the street while retaining the industrial character of the building.

- Spring Sheet Metal: renovation and facade improvements to its main office building at 678 South Clinton Ave. The planned changes will improve the work environment for staff and update the facade, while retaining the unique Art Deco elements of the building.

ESCAPE also set aside funds to pay for streetscape enhancements all along South Clinton Ave. Look for new benches and planters to appear in the spring.

This is the third NYMS grant that SWPC has obtained for commercial property owners in Sector 6. The previous grants were used for facade improvements on seven properties on South Ave and the southern end of South Clinton Ave, and larger building renovation projects at four properties. Nineteen commercial units were, or are being, improved under the first two grants.

The NYMS Program has provided matching grants to commercial and mixed-use property owners since 2004. Funding is provided by the Office for Community Renewal, a division of the Housing Trust Fund. ▲

Ellwanger Barry Cooperative Nursery School OPEN HOUSE

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