February/March 2014
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The WEDGE®

Official Newspaper of the South Wedge Since 1982

South Wedge Giddy Over "Edge of the Wedge"

by Nancy O'Donnell

A huge hurrah went up around the South Wedge when Buckingham Properties announced its redevelopment of the historic Ward Supply Co. Building on South Clinton Ave. The building has been largely vacant for decades.

Ken Glazer, Director of Development & Architectural Services, and partner at Buckingham Properties, attended a recent NBN 6 meeting to talk to the community about the "Edge of Wedge" which is slated for occupancy this summer.

The 40,000 square foot four-story brick, facility is slated to contain 30 residential units (studios and one-bedroom) on the top three floors with retail on the first floor. Buckingham Properties promises plenty of parking (each unit will have a spot) along with other amenities like a roof top deck "with great views" and bike racks. The blueprint also includes two low-slung buildings adjacent to the historic structure that will be turned into retail or office space. Already rumors are flying about who wants to move in first. Abundance Co-op has expressed interest in taking over the full first floor Glazer said.

Cynthia Howk, Landmark Society of Greater New York architectural research coordinator, is equally thrilled by the historic building' redevelopment.

Howk said the original business on the site was the Gundlach Optical Company that founded in 1884. The company started downtown on Stone Street before it moved in 1891 to the brick building on "Pinnacle Avenue" (today South Clinton Avenue) joining the strong German community already in the South Wedge.

There were four Gundlachs in the city directory at the time. Founder Ernst Gundlach lived on South Avenue. A cousin, Carl Gundlach, was the minister at the Emmanuel German Reformed Church on Hamilton Street.

"Ernst Gundlach was a player [in his field]," said Howk. In 1886 he presented a paper in Chautauqua Institute on microscopic manufacturing.

"You can see the building on the 1900 City Plat Map," said Howk, who said the company made camera lens, photo equipment. The building was taken over by the U.S. government during World War I, when it produced binocular lens used by the military. In 1927 and again in 1946, I found want ads looking for young men and woman to polish lens."

By the 1920s and into the 1930s, the business was renamed the "Gundlach-Manhattan Company."

Howk is hoping that the "enormous turn of the century" windows on the Ward building will be restored.

"In those days factories needed lots of natural lights. Light bulbs were only about 15 watts in 1897," said Houck. "Afterwards

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Young Ladies Turn Pinkies Up at Refinement Studio's Valentine Day Tea Party-Story pg 6

South Wedge Victory Garden Readies for a New Harvest

by Felton and Ann Culbreth

If you've ever wanted to home grow your own vegetables, then the South Wedge Victory Garden is for you!

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) will host a community garden again this summer where anyone from the neighborhood can apply for a plot to grow vegetables.

Last year the Victory Garden provided plots for over 35 South Wedge families. Gardeners grew everything from beans and tomatoes to greens and garlic. It was a great way for gardeners to meet their neighbors while economically growing fresh, healthy and tasty produce.

As garden managers, we will be overseeing the Victory Garden this year. We follow the principle of community supported gardening. Gardeners will participate free of charge, but each gardener will be expected to offer about four hours of their time over the season to help out with the garden's overall maintenance.

Applications for garden plots at 122 Hamilton Street and 162 Cypress St. will be accepted until March 1. Because of the overwhelming interest last year, this season we are ask neighbors to apply for the plots using the application form on our website at www.swpc.org or call 256-1740, ext. 104 to have a copy mailed to you.

South Wedge Victory with mystery gardener (Photo by James Papapanu)

City Approves Highland Market Request & Project Moves Ahead

by Nancy O'Donnell

Plans for a new, improved Highland Market continue to move forward in early January when owner Damianos "Danny" Stefanou received City of Rochester Planning Commission approval to establish a "full line food store with beer sales with hours of operation from 6 a.m. – 9 p.m. daily." A front entrance would face the sidewalk of South Avenue and the rear of the building would be demolished and replaced with additional parking spaces.

Earlier in the long process of remodeling the current dilapidated structure, the Rochester Environmental Commission determined that the project will have no significant impact on the natural and built environment or on the adjacent area.

Recently, City Preservation Planner Peter Siegrist met with community representatives and neighbors at an NBN6 meeting to discuss additional concerns,

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

Inside:

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- The Quiet Warrior - Rev. Lawrence Lee Evans, Sr.
- Dr. Puran's 14 Ways to Show Love for Your Child
- Refinement Studio Teaches Manners & More
- Justin Hubbell's Comic
- Nathaniel Mich Takes a Sip of Fuego Coffee

Somewhere in the Wedge

CITY

Enjoy one fantastic night of
"City Love"
March 21, 2014
5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

The Academy of Medicine
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Rochester, NY

Three not-for-profit community-building organizations--SEAC, SWPC & Rochester Cares--join forces for a Roc City love fest to raise funds for volunteer projects in southeast neighborhoods. Silent Auction. Music & Dancing with the Bill Tiberio Band. Hors d'oeuvres & Custom Cocktails ("Love Pottion Number No. 9 anyone?)

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For information, go to www.rochestercars.org or email mlunt@chestercares.org.

RochesterCares Be the change. Volunteer.
SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE
SEAC South East Area Coalition

Letter to the Editor

Thank You to South Wedge's Harry G's

Last September, due to financial constraints, we at Venture PROS (Personalized Recovery-Oriented Services) were uable to continue our lunch program for the clients we serve.

I hit the pavement and the phones to see if any of our local businesses would be willing and/or able to help us out. I'm so pleased to say that the owners of Harry G's NY Deli, Mary Beth and Al Giglio, as well as the owners of Little Venice Pizzeria, Jeff and Dave Freedman, came to the rescue!

Harry G's donated bread and deli products which enabled us to provide a light breakfast each day and a deli lunch two days a week to the participants of our program. Little Venice provided a generous discount on sheet pizzas, which allows us to provide a pizza lunch every Friday.

Because of their kindness and generosity so many people who counted on us for nutritional assistance were able to continue to enjoy a meal that would not otherwise have been possible. As if that was not enough, I received a call from Mary Beth a few days before Christmas asking if she could provide a complete meal of homemade lasagna, salad, bread, dessert and beverages for our clients on Christmas Eve!

I don't mind sharing that I was moved to tears by this beautiful expression of compassion at a time when so many are struggling. So Santa arrived at our door in the form of Mary Beth and Al delivering all the goodies.

So many shared with me after the meal that it was the best lasagna they ever had. For some others it was the only meal they had that day.

As a resident of the South Wedge myself, I am so proud that it was my own neighbors who stepped up to the plate to help others!

Please join me in saying thank you to the owners and staff of Harry G's and Little Venice by patronizing their businesses. For me, it's what the Wedge is all about: Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Donna Smith, MS, LMHC
PROS Director
Rochester Rehabilitation
Ventures PROS
rochesterrehab.org

The South Wedge Planning Committee, Inc. February/March 2014 Calendar

Meetings are held at 224 Mt. Hope Ave.
The community is invited to attend all meetings.

SWPC Board Meeting
james.papapanu@gmail.com
Tues., 2/18, 3/18, 6 p.m.

Community Engagement
(Neighbors & Block Clubs)
amaroselli@swpc.org
Wed. 2/26 & 3/26, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Team
tsciarabba@hotmail.com
Wed. 2/12 & 3/12, 12:30 p.m.

Housing & Structures
tomkiciorjr@gmail.com
Meets every other month
Wed., 2/5, 5:30 p.m.
E-mail to confirm.

SW Victory Garden
felann@frontiernet.net
E-mail for dates and times.

SWPC Wants You!

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to join with this dynamic nonprofit organization in making a difference in southeast Rochester.

Founded in 1978, SWPC acts as a conduit for federal or state repair grants to help keep people in their aging homes. It aided the development of the very vibrant South Avenue Business corridor and works in a myriad of ways to build community through its South Wedge Farmers Market, Victory Gardens and the In addition, it founded and funds *The Wedge* Newspaper.

Your time, talent and passion can help us in continuing SWPC's work.

If interested, call the SWPC office at 256-1740 or e-mail jpage@swpc.org.

SOUTH WEDGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Donna Roethel Lenhard, Vice Chair
Nathaniel Mich, Co-Vice Chair
Anthony Sciarabba, Treasurer
Mark Greisberger, Co-Treasurer
Amanda Connor, Secretary

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Judy Bennett, Angela DiGiulio, Nancy O'Donnell, Nathaniel Mich

Comic
Justin Hubbell

The Wedge Newspaper
(585) 256-1740, ext.. 105 or 978-9638.
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E-mail staff, type first initial last name@swpc.org

South Wedge Planning Committee
224 Mt. Hope Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620
(585) 256-1740

The *Wedge* Newspaper, a not-for-profit newspaper, is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee, a community development organization. Its mission is to provide accurate coverage of community news as well as local, state and national news that affect the area.

The *Wedge* is printed bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October and December) with a circulation of 6500. The newspaper is distributed to area businesses, retail shops and other drop off points in the Greater Rochester area.

Articles in this paper do not necessarily reflect the view and/or opinions of the South Wedge Planning Committee.

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

Advertising deadlines and rates are available online at www.swpc.org or call Nancy O'Donnell at 978-9638.

Before recycling the Wedge, please share with a friend, neighbor 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, commercially sustainable urban village.

KUDOS TO SOUTH WEDGE HOMES WHO TOOK THE SWPC DECORATING CHALLENGE

Thanks to all who participated in making the South Wedge beautiful: 84 Hickory St., 191 Sanford St., 780 South Avenue, 69 Poplar St., 54 Comfort St., 34 Menlo Place, 183 Linden St., 290 Hamilton St., 734 Mt. Hope Ave, 42 Gregory St., 249 Averill Ave., 28 Alexander St.

111 Averill Avenue (Photo by Judy Bennett)

249 Averill Avenue (Photo by Judy Bennett)

183 Linden Street (Photo by Judy Bennett)

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For over 30 years, *The Wedge Newspaper* has chronicled the lives and times of our vibrant South Wedge neighborhood.

If you enjoy reading the *Wedge*, please consider subscribing by sending a check or money order.

Or consider making a donation in the name of someone who helped the South Wedge become what it is today.

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Please mail this form along with your donation to: 224 Mount Hope Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620.

Ad Deadline for Next Issue March 24

Call 256-1740, ext. 105 or 978-9638 for rates.

Swillburg Resident Coaches Community on Keeping it Safe!

by Ronald K. Stephen

I happen to rent from a great landlord in Swillburg and in addition to my respect and appreciation for all he and his family does to maintain the properties they own, I also want to do my part and protect and keep a watchful eye whenever possible. Here are some recommendations for keeping yourself and your valuables safe.

Never leave your vehicle unlocked or running while unattended and never leave electronic devices or valuables in plain sight, giving thieves a reason to target your vehicle.

Always keep your home locked and secure and this includes all windows, doors, bikes and garages.

Even if you keep a primary door open for fresh-air in the summer, spring or fall, you should always keep your screen door locked.

Always direct some lighting to your front and side doors or better yet install motion detected lighting fixtures, which are an excellent deterrent for those snooping, picking up cans or fumbling through garbage on or near your property line; video cameras and alarms take protection to another level.

If you witness something inappropriate or unusual, don't be shy; contact authorities immediately. This includes animal cruelty, reckless driving, vandalism and issues of that nature.

Most people work hard for what they own, and we must work together and keep a watchful eye on anyone who has lost respect for others' property.

If you witness strange activity always try to identify clothing and more importantly, body and facial features; hair color, height, weight, build, any scars or tattoos if you get a close-up look at the individual. When it comes to cars, make a note of the color, make and model, or better yet, a license plate number. All of this can be important and included in a police report. I once witnessed a drug deal between two people in unknown vehicles, and by recording the license plate numbers law enforcement was able to make an arrest.

If ever threatened with a weapon, nothing is more precious than your life. Personal belongings can always be replaced; so stand down and then contact authorities promptly. If you have a legitimate issue or concern and something doesn't look safe or sound right, then it never hurts to be pro-active by calling 911 for further investigation. If walking or jogging, especially at night, take a partner. Never wear head phones. They can take focus away from oncoming vehicles or anyone or anything unusual approaching. Safety begins with using sound judgment, common sense and maintaining awareness to your surroundings. Odds are that if everyone works together in our community, our strength in numbers would soon discourage any increase in negative activity and remind the few so-called "bad apples" that such behavior will not be tolerated. Soon enough word will spread that this is an area with a strong community network that is aware, alert, working together and always watching out! For more questions, feel free to contact Ron at ronaldsk41@yahoo.com.

Ron K. is a licensed NYS Security enforcement manager/ officer with roughly 14 years of experience working closely with local law enforcement. Ron is also a football coach and has worked with all age groups from high school to professional arena football teams for the city of Rochester. Coach K. (as he is also known), believes focus, respect for other people and the discipline to do what is right can be applied in both areas; "on the field and in the community." Ron does his part keeping an eye out in the Swillburg community.

Archie Hanas shovels snow outside his home. (Photo by Paul Minor)

by Nancy O'Donnell

If Archie Can Do it, So Can We

In the South Wedge, Archie Hanas doesn't need a reminder to be a good neighbor. City of Rochester code requires that residents--owners or renters who live on the first floor of a property--keep "sidewalks free of snow and ice."

When it snows, Hanas, who celebrated his 98th birthday in December, is outside his house on Averill Avenue shoveling a path for his neighbors. In fact, for more than 60 years Archie has kept his sidewalk clear for walkers and mail delivery.

A belated Happy Birthday to a great neighbor!

Rev. Judy L. Hay and SWPC Executive Director John Page (Photo by Angela DiGiulio)

SWPC Receives Reshaping Rochester Award

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) was honored with the Directors' Award by the Rochester Regional Community Design Center during their annual Reshaping Rochester Award luncheon at Temple B'rith Kodesh in December.

The Center noted the South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) long standing leadership role in the revitalization of the historic city neighborhood.

Joining SWPC's executive director John Page was the Rev. Judy Hays, who was instrumental in creating the South Wedge Planning Committee and helping to revitalize the entire community.

Rev. Hay started SWPC as an outreach program of the Calvary St. Andrew's Church where she was pastor. She built partnerships with neighbors, community organizations, institutions and entrepreneurs that led to the economic and social redevelopment seen today in the South Wedge.

Volunteers Needed to Teach Adults Literacy Skills

Literacy Volunteers of Rochester has several one-hour preview sessions scheduled for anyone interested in becoming a tutor. After attending a preview, you may participate in one of our training workshops. Many adults are waiting for a tutor to help them to learn to read, write, or speak English, or to improve their math skills. To become a tutor it is not necessary to have prior teaching experience or knowledge of a foreign language. For more information, please contact our office at 473-3030, or check our website at www.literacyrochester.org.

The Center for Youth Crisis Nursery Open Year Round

The Center for Youth's Crisis Nursery, located at 201 Genesee Park Boulevard, is open year round, seven days a week, 24 hours a day. It provides a safe haven for children, ages birth to 14, (up to 17 with siblings) in times of crisis. It provides temporary care for children at risk for abuse and neglect and provides families with referrals will help them resolve difficult situations. There is no charge to families. To learn more call, 235-5750

The Center for Youth at 905 Monroe Avenue offers counseling, shelter, education, referrals for additional services. 24 Hour Help Line: 271-7670 Business Line, 473-2464.

Cinema
ROCHESTER'S OLDEST NEIGHBORHOOD THEATER

Cinema Theater Indigogo Campaign Over, Fundraising Continues

Neighborhood landmark, the Cinema Theater, is wrangling with a dilemma that many small movie houses are facing—changing from film to digital.

Cinema staff member Patrick Tiernan launched an Indigogo Campaign to help Cinema owner John Trickey purchase a new digital production system.

"We asked for $3000 and raised over $4030," writes Tiernan in an email to the Wedge. "I'm very pleased. While it only covers a small amount of the $70K needed, every bit helps for sure."

If you'd like to contribute to the Cinema, call 271-1785

$62,900

179 Bidwell Terrace

Here's 20 reasons to take a look at this completely remodeled 1,056 sq. ft. outstanding Colonial!

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- **New resurfaced black top driveway**
- **Circuit breakers with 150 amp electric panel**
- **Energy efficient 40 gallon gas hot water furnace**
- **93% high efficiency gas, forced air furnace**
- **New energy efficient windows throughout**
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by Nancy O'Donnell

Christopher Hennelly (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell)

South Wedge Businessman Chris Hennelly Honored with Gay Alliance Vinnie Award

Christopher Hennelly and Michael Lill from The Christopher Group, a South Wedge bookkeeping and tax practice, were chosen as recipients of the Gay Alliance's annual Vinnie Award in a ceremony at WXXI in early February. The Vinnie Award was created by the late Arnie Pegish to honor community members whose efforts benefit the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer) community of Rochester as well as the Gay Alliance. The Vicki Cup is given to a woman in the community who has given outstanding service to the general community including the gay and lesbian community.

Samantha Vega and Kasha Davis received the Vicki Award on the same night. Each recipient was honored for their efforts connected with Rochester Pride 2013.

"[Their] efforts had a profound and lasting positive impact on Pride, the Gay Alliance, the LGBTQ community and the broader Rochester community," writes Gay Alliance Acting Executive Director Scott Fearing in a letter announcing the award.

Arnie Pegish, then the owner of the Bachelor Forum, established this award in 1975 in memory of his late business partner, Vinnie Wheeler. The first Vicki Russo Humanitarian Cup Award was presented in 1984 and is in honor of Vicki Russo, an employee at Bachelor Forum for many years.

Hennelly also provides accounting services for the South Wedge Planning Committee.

First Friday Kirtans

Musician Sonam Targee holds kirtans on the first Friday of every month at Natural Oasis, 288 Monroe Avenue. Kirtans or kirtana is an Indian call-and-response chanting performed in India's bhakti devotional traditions. February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, 7:30 p.m.

Mount Hope Cemetery Winter Tours

The Friends of Mt. Hope Cemetery offer walks on Sat. Feb. 15, March 15 and April 19 at 1 p.m. Tours begin at the South Cemetery entrance, 1133 Mt. Hope Avenue (opposite the Distillery).

$5/person. FOMH members and children under 16 years are free. For more information, call 621-3529 or e-mail M91243@aol.com.

Stuart's Spices Food Tasting Classes

Stuart's Spices is holding two fun food tasting events in February. For each event owners Vicki and Tom Finnefrock will talk about spices and cooking, demo some food items and offer yummy food

Thurs. Feb 6, 6-8 p.m. Samples include pots of beef and veggie chilies, mulled apple cider, Volcanic Cookies and demos of their new Harissa Pepper sauces and Stout Mustard Kit. Registration $5/person & receive 10% off your purchase that evening

Sat. Feb 22, 3-4:30 p.m. Cooking for (or with) Kids. Sloppy Joes, Monkey Bread, demo of making Grilled Cheese with Caramelized Apple Sandwich and applesauce. Also, enjoy a variety of popcorn seasonings. Registration $5/person & receive 10% off your purchase that day. One child can attend for free with each adult.

To learn more, visit http://www.stuartsspices.com or like them on Facebook. To register via email at Vicki@StuartsSpices.com.

754 Clinton Ave South, 436-9329

Rochester Civic Garden Center's Book Sale

RCGC's Annual Library Book Sale is held on Saturday, February 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Stock up on gardening books to get you through the winter and help you plan for spring. Free seed catalogs and back issues of magazines are yours for the taking. Stop in and enjoy a hot drink and some snacks! The library will be open for you to borrow books as well. Rochester Civic Garden Center, 5 Castle Park, Rochester, 585-473-5130, rcgc.org.

Rochester Civic Garden Center's Spring Classes.

Basic training for gardeners of all experience levels. Six classes from Botany I, The Green Plant to Plant Propagation of Woody Plants, indoor winter herb garden to redesigning and renovating your landscape and much, much more. For a complete list and pre-registration informal call 473-5130 or visit rcgc.org. Here's just a small sample:

Tuesday, February 18: Make an Everlasting Wreath, 1-3 pm, Rochester Civic Garden Center. Sue Lang and Sheryl Roets (owners of Gallea's Tropical Greenhouse and Florist) will guide you in creating a large everlasting wreath using a base of salal (lemon leaf) and baby's breath (depending on availability) which you will embellish with your choice from a selection of dried, fresh and silk floral materials. Your wreath will last for many months of enjoyment. Class takes place at Gallea's, 2832 Clover Street, Pittsford NY (corner of Clover and Jefferson Rd.). All materials included. Fee: $65.

Thursday, February 20: Rochester Civic Gardener's Certificate. Rochester Civic Garden Center. Basic training for gardeners of all experience levels. Six classes: Botany I, The Green Plant; Botany II, Flowers Fruits & Seeds; Soils; Herbaceous Perennials; Woody Ornamentals; Pruning. Members $189, non-members $250. Preregistration required, call 585/473-5130 or visit rcgc.org.

Thursday, February 20: Botany for Gardeners - The Green Plant, 6-9 p.m. Rochester Civic Garden Center. Plants are the touchstone of gardening, and the more we understand about how plants function, the better gardeners we will be. This lively, informative class is designed for students new to botany as well as those desiring a refresher course. Join Carol Southby, botanist and naturalist, as we explore the hidden workings of flowering plants from a gardener's point of view. Topics to be covered in this session include the structure and function of stems, leaves and roots; photosynthesis and growth; and plant adaptations to different conditions. Members $40, non-members $50. Preregistration required, call 585/473-5130 or visit rcgc.org.

Tuesday, February 25: Plant Propagation Certificate. Rochester Civic Garden Center. 4-class

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You're Invited to the first annual South Wedge Harvest Hootenanny

BASWA, the Business Association of the South Wedge Area, is planning a new street festival. The "Harvest Hootenannany," a South Wedge street festival that will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 13 on South Avenue from Gregory Street to Averill Avenue.

The street fair will have an "autumn country fair" theme with carnival games, activities for all ages, live music, vendors, a beer garden, food vendors, and sidewalk sales by local businesses.

For more information, email chris@historichouseparts.com.

Premier Pastries' Sweet Role in Syracuse Game

South Wedge's Premier Pastry played a key role in an epic college basketball match: the long-awaited game between the Syracuse Orange and the Duke Blue Devils on February 1.

Premier Pastry created a cake and hundreds of cupcakes for the pre-game party for courtside seat holders. The cake depicts a battle between team mascots, Otto the Orange and the Blue Devil.

Premier Pastry has been creating unique and intricately decorated cakes and pastries for special events since 1991. Co-owner Philip Duquette has been creating cakes for SU sporting events for several years, including the cake for Jim Boeheim's 900th winning game and also for SU's football team shown above.

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The Quiet Warrior in the South Wedge

by Sister Uwinmana Oni

When Minister Lawrence Lee Evans, Sr. received an award at the Calvary St. Andrew Church's Big Lunch in June 2013, he just said, "thank you," and took a seat. Over the years when he received the Asante Sana Award from the Rochester Sankofa Committee and the Image Appreciation Award from ImagePrinter and the Hart Award from Rochester General Hospital's Behavior Health Network along with many other awards over the years, he just said "Thank you" and took a seat.

The reason—Minister Evans is a doer, not a talker. He is the quiet warrior in the fight for education and self-empowerment in over many years of making history in the South Wedge.

He attended Howard University where he studied civil engineering. He graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor's Degree in business administration and a M.A. from Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School in religious studies with an emphasis on black church studies. Minister Evans founded First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc. with his late wife when he was a graduate student at Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School.

The Institute's mission encompassed all aspects of building community: education, mentoring small businesses, helping ministers to minister and aiding families in finding housing, legal aid, scholarships for their children.

In 1970 he took a supportive but vital role as an organizer in the South Wedge and continued in that role well into the 1990s.

He developed a Charles Riley Tutorial Program that he finances himself with 80% of his personal income. He created a Bottle Campaign often picking up returnable bottles all over Rochester on Saturday mornings.

Minister Evans has been active in local politics serving as campaign manager and political adviser for many candidates. He is a committee member of the 24th Legislative District of the Rochester Democratic Party.

Mentoring has been an important part of Minister Evan's advocacy. He has served as a mentor for many people—churchgoers, small business owners (including yours truly, now the owner of LLWE Business Services Plus, an independent tax preparer and bookkeeper.)

Community cultural enrichment is another area where Minister Evans has worked. He introduced First Fruits and Kwanzaa to the Rochester many years ago.

He is the father of six children, including Rochester City School Board member Malik, and the grandfather of six.

Minister Evans began his personal philosophy of "Do-ology," that emphasized high principles and discipline, as a 13 year old in honor of his grandmother, Martha McMiller Jordan.

Ms. Jordan was a great influence on his life. She taught him African history, ancient religions and African-American culture and traditions of the 20th century. She also encouraged him to be mentored by religious leaders of faiths and culture.

On Sunday, February 16, 2014, Minister Evans will give his annual Black History Address at the First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc., 219 Hamilton Street. The title of his speech, 'Do-ology, Education and Me in the South Wedge."

For more information, call 461-0379 or email fciirochester@gmail.com or visit www.feiirochester.org.

Judy Bennett talks about traffic concerns on Averill Avenue (Photo by Alexandra Maroselli)

Community Engagement Committee Explores South Wedge Traffic Issues

by Alexandra Maroselli

Every month the South Wedge Planning Committee's Community Engagement Committees meet to look at ways to improve life in the South Wedge.

In late November, SWPC held a meeting for neighbors to voice their concerns about the traffic situation in the Wedge.

For the past 10 years (according to some neighbors, even longer) the traffic on residential side streets has become an overwhelming concern, as commuters, commercial trucks and school buses use these streets as cut-throughs to avoid traffic on Mount Hope and South Avenues. These vehicles whiz through the narrow streets at high speeds and ignore stop signs, creating an unsettling atmosphere for residents, their children and pets.

As the problem worsened, neighbors and block club leaders took it upon themselves to raise awareness of the problems. Several streets received traffic calming studies yet did not capture the severity of the problem that failed to address the severity of the problem..

At another community engagement meeting earlier in 2013, several block club leaders voiced their concerns and frustrations on traffic problems. As the meeting progressed, we realized the solution was in plain sight: this is not a individual block club problem - it is a problem occurring all over the South Wedge. After the meeting, Cypress-Linden Block Club leader Lisa Regan, Judy Bennett on Averill Avenue, Jayne Morgan of the Hickory NUTS- and Maria Brandt of Menlo Place and SWPC met to plan a community discussion on traffic concerns in the South Wedge. John Borek from Adam McFadden's office provided support and guidance as we planned this event.

The community discussion created an opportunity for neighbors to voice their concerns directly to community representatives, including the City of Rochester, City School District, Rochester Police Traffic Department, Rural Metro, First Student, and others. Over 40 neighbors attended the event which was a tremendous success

At the end of the meeting, the community's representatives asked to reconvene in February 2014. SWPC's Community Engagement Committee will be meeting again on Wed. February 26 at 7 p.m. at Calvary St. Andrews Church at 95 Averill Avenue and Ashland Street

.If you have any questions, call 256-1740 or email amaroselli@swpc.org.

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14 Ways to Show Love for Your Child

by Alexie Cruz Puran, MD

The following are Valentine's Day (and everyday of the year) tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) of ways to show love to your children .

1. Use plenty of positive words with your child. Try to avoid using sarcasm. Children often don't understand it, and if they do, it creates a negative interaction.
2. Respond promptly and lovingly to your child's physical and emotional needs and banish put-downs from your parenting vocabulary. Be available to listen to your child when he/she wants to talk with you even if it's an inconvenient time.
3. Make an extra effort to set a good example at home and in public. Use words like "I'm sorry," "please," and "thank you."
4. When your child is angry, argumentative or in a bad mood, give him a hug, cuddle, pat, secret sign or other gesture of affection he favors and then talk with him about it when he's feeling better.
5. Use non-violent forms of discipline. Parents should institute both rewards and restrictions many years before adolescence to help prevent trouble during the teenage years. Allowing children of any age to constantly break important rules without being disciplined only encourages more rule violations.
6. Make plans to spend time alone with your young child or teen doing something she enjoys. Send a Valentine's Day card to your older child or teen. Make Valentine's Day cards together with your preschool or younger school age child.
7. Mark family game nights on your calendar so the entire family can be together. Put a different family member's name under each date, and have that person choose which game will be played that evening.
8. Owning a pet can make children, especially those with chronic illnesses and disabilities, feel better by stimulating physical activity, enhancing their overall attitude, and offering constant companionship.
9. One of the best ways to familiarize your child with good food choices is to encourage him to cook with you. Let him get involved in the entire process, from planning the menus to shopping for ingredients to the actual food preparation and its serving. It is wonderful when families eat together as much as possible. Good food, good conversations.
10. As your child grows up, she'll spend most of her time developing and refining a variety of skills and abilities in all areas of her life. You should help her as much as possible by encouraging her and providing the equipment and instruction she needs. Start reading to your child beginning at six months. Avoid TV in the first two years, monitor and watch TV with your older children and use TV time as conversation time with your children. Limit computer and video games.
11. Your child's health depends significantly on the care and guidance you offer during his early years. By taking your child to the doctor regularly for preventive health care visits, keeping him safe from accidents, providing a nutritious diet, and encouraging exercise throughout childhood, you help protect and strengthen his body.
12. Help your child foster positive relationships with friends, siblings and members of the community.
13. One of your most important gifts as a parent is to help your child develop self-esteem. Your child needs your steady support and encouragement to discover his strengths. He needs you to believe in him as he learns to believe in himself. Loving him, spending time with him, listening to him and praising his accomplishments are all part of this process.
14. Don't forget to say, "I love you" to children of all ages!

Warner Castle & the Rochester Civic Garden - Part Two

by Christine Froelich

Many drive by Warner Castle every day, but few know its history or the man who lived there. In the last issue, The Wedge looked at the history of its first owner Horatio Gates Warner. He designed the castle in 1854 to resemble the ancestral castle of Clan Douglas, which captivated his fancy during a visit to Scotland. Born in 1801 in Canaan, Columbia County NY, Warner graduated from Union College in 1826. During his lifetime he was a lawyer, judge, banker and publisher of the Daily Advertiser. Originally, the castle was situated on many acres of land serving as the family's farm.

Over the next 100 years, the property changed hands from the Warner family to the Ramsdell family, and then in 1944 it was sold to Christopher Gian-Curiso, a naturopath who used the house as a sanitarium. During that time a beautiful sunken garden designed by Alling S. DeForest was added behind the property. In 1951, the City of Rochester purchased the property for $37,500.

In 1961, an agreement between the City and Monroe County turned responsibility for maintenance for the castle grounds and Rochester's other major parks over to the Monroe County Parks Department. The Parks Department's office and herbarium resided here until 1964 when the Garden Center began its lease. (The Garden Center's mission is "to improve the quality of life in the Genesee region by fostering knowledge, providing information, increasing interest and promoting all aspects of gardening and horticulture.")

Time, weather and vandalism took their toll of the sunken garden's infrastructure, and in 1988 the garden was closed to the public because of the Parks Department's concern for visitors' safety. A year-long site study of what and how to repair the garden was funded by the Institute for Museum Services, was undertaken by Doell and Doell, Historic Landscape Preservation Planners and Environmental Design and Research, P.C. of Syracuse, NY.

Restoration of the sunken garden was completed in October 1991 with funds from Monroe County and an Environmental Quality Bond Act grant. The garden's stone walls were repointed and missing stones replaced. Paving stones, an important landscape design element introduced in the original garden design, were also replaced. Historically appropriate plant material was added in 1993. A plant restoration project received the New York State Preservation League's Historic Landscape Preservation Award in 1995.

Today, the Rochester Civic Garden Center (RCGC) at Warner Castle is a not-for-profit horticultural education center. The Center offers 200 classes, including certificate programs in basic gardening, landscape design, plant propagation and plant identification, and a variety of individual gardening, horticulture and floral design classes. Many special events are available to the community every year: a Spring Symposium, this year on March 1 at the Memorial Art Gallery, features nationally renowned gardening experts; a spring plant sale with many local specialty vendors; a summer garden tour allowing visitors access to some of the best private gardens in our area; and a master class lecture series with local and northeast-regional gardening experts.

The Garden Center's Horticultural Library contains over 4,500 volumes, the largest collection in our area devoted exclusively to all aspects of horticulture and gardening. It is open to the public for reading and reference. Along with books, it holds current and back issues of many magazines, garden catalogs, photographs and prints of garden subjects. RCGC members can avail themselves of a range of membership levels and benefits. Some benefits available include book-borrowing privileges (a "Library-Only" membership is available for $5 annual fee). You can search our catalog online (www.rcgc.org) and reserve books on our website. Members also receive discounts on classes and events.

The Castle is open to the public free of charge for self-guided tours Tuesdays through Thursdays from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Library hours are Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. We are open occasional Saturdays from 9:30 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Please call 473-5130 to inquire about Saturday hours.

Visit our website, rcgc.org, for more information on all that the Rochester Civic Garden Center offers.

Refinement Studio Teaches Table Manners & More

by Nancy O'Donnell

A room full of young girls, several from the South Wedge, dressed up party dresses, straw hats, pearls and white gloves raptly listened to Miss Cynthia Ely's etiquette lesson. Along with learning new social graces, the children sipped raspberry tea and nibbled on finger sandwiches and cupcakes at the Refinement Studio's St. Valentine Day Tea.

During the afternoon event, girls 5-8, and in a later tea party, girls 9-11, were instructed on good manners, grooming and emotional intelligence, with some playtime thrown in for the younger ones.

"You should look a person in the eye, shake hands firmly and then release," said Miss Cynthia while the little girls nodding their heads solemnly. "Eye contact builds self-confidence and self-esteem."

The Refinement Studio is located at 55 Canterbury Road
To learn more, call 244-2228

Next, the girls shared a philosophical discussion about leaders and followers. "Leaders lead and serve," said Miss Cynthia who followed that lesson with others on how to respond to bullies and other deep ethical questions.

"Ladies use no words that hurt," said Miss Cynthia, encouraging the children to pay attention to the pretty and beautiful things around them and especially to not talk about other people in an unkind way.

Next, the girls adjourned to a tea party room complete with red roses, gold silverware and delicate china to relish heart-shaped cups of raspberry tea, finger sandwiches and cupcakes. (Of course, no elbows on the table and no talking with their mouths full!)

Along with a photo opportunity in front of a garden backdrop, the young ladies went home with a lovely goodie bag filled with treats including a custom made heart-shape cookie from Cut-it-Out Cookies.

Miss Ely also offers the "essentials workshop" and tea party with a nautical motif for young boys.

Learn more by visiting www.refinement studio.com.

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(l-r) Nicholas Smythe, Ajani Jeffries and Josiah Montalvo

South House Creative Collective Opens on Caroline Street

by Nancy O'Donnell

Fashion and long boards are the focus of South House, a creative collection at 159 Caroline Street. Ajani Jeffries and Josiah Montalvo are the force behind clothing line, Goldn Road, which features women's clothing, T-shirts and beanies. Nicholas Smythe shares the space for his South Wedge Boards, a line of long boards used for street surfing. Lucas Pancheta completes the collective as a silent partner.

"We're using the Caroline street shop as a headquarters," said Jeffries. "Right now I'm selling the clothing line from pop up shows."

Choosing to set up his first shop in the South Wedge was an easy choice for Jeffries. He and Smythe grew up together on nearby streets.

Smythe is proud that his long boards are all handcrafted.

"We make everything," said Smythe. "All the lumber, glue, tools and supplies come from local distributors. I'm all about Rochester."

Long boards are popular in California, but Smythe is spreading the word in Rochester that people are ready for a new "transportation lifestyle." His long boards, measuring 48" long, are "user friendly."

"They have a bigger wheel base, so it's easier to push longer distances, to travel from A to B. Lots of college kids use them to go from class to class," Smythe.

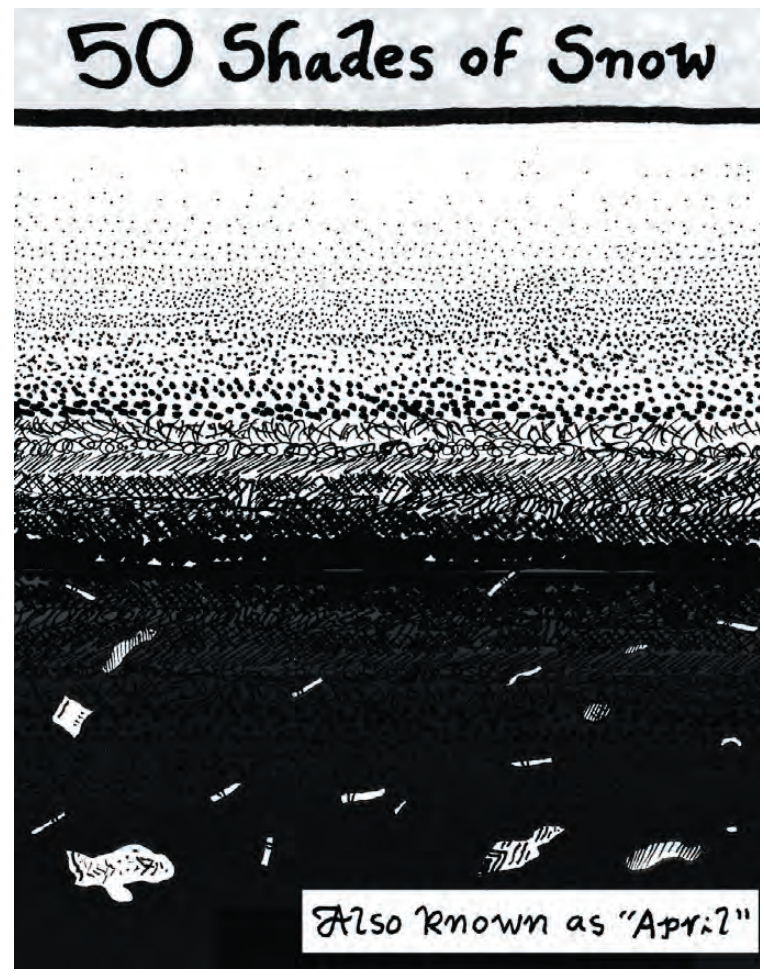
"It's just like a bicycle. I've been on a couple rides with bicyclists and I can keep up. My three-year-old daughter can use one."

Currently, Smythe is collaborating with Rochester's first whiskey distillery, Black Button, on Railroad Street. The distillery gave him whiskey barrel staves for long board building.

"We're doing a film about pressing whiskey boards into long boards," said Smythe.

South House will hold a grand opening sometime in April.

The North Wedge by Justin Hubbell



See more of Justin's comics at justinhubbell.com

Bread for All

by Paul Frazier

"You mean to tell me you offer organic, pound and a half loaves of whole wheat bread, delivered – by bicycle! – in the South Wedge neighborhood, and the cost is only $4? Are you kidding me? And, I understand that the bakery is a training program to boot? Such a deal!"

Bread for All is such a deal. A project of St. Joe's Catholic Worker House of Hospitality on South Ave., this small-scale bakery lives on the premise, Everyone eats, no one gets rich, and no one goes hungry.

"We're more than a bakery," says Peg Gefell, whose former catering business, Savory Thyme, became the home of Bread for All when Peg retired from catering and her downtown restaurant, and began preparing meals for St. Joe's. (The meals at St. Joe's, prepared by Peg and her volunteers, are another story. Suffice it to say that if you are hungry, having a meal at St. Joe's is a special treat.)

"We bring two trainees at a time into the bakery, men and women looking for job training and resume building. They receive

a $9 an hour stipend. The rest of us are volunteers, and we have a great time baking."

The bakery sells loaves on a subscription basis, and offers organic whole wheat and white loaves, both large and small sizes. In addition, for those who want a little variety in their lives, the bakery produces a variety package. Every third week one of these specials is offered: raisin-cinnamon, focaccia and potato. The potato bread has become well received, and fresh loaves of both whole wheat and potato are available at Abundance Co-op Market on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Loaves are given away to those who cannot afford to pay. The House of Mercy and Bethany House receive regular deliveries.

The bakery also makes a healthy dessert each week for St. Joe's, a welcome substitute to the old, sugar and fat laden "desserts" that often donated.

The bakery welcomes new bread subscribers. The bakery is a phone call away at 775-9135.

As you prepare to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, give the bakery a call and order a scrumptious Irish Soda Bread, a recipe passed down from Peg's great-grandmother. Mouth-watering and sure to please. A great deal! The round loaves are scaled at 2 pounds and cost only $6. Bread For All subscribers pay only $5.

Orders for Irish Soda Bread will be taken until Saturday, March 15. The breads will be available at the bakery, 220 Mt. Hope Avenue, on Monday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. to place an order call 775-9135.

Sterling Studio Opens on South Avenue

Lisa Meyer, owner of Flower Power Décor and Paul Mattison of North 40 Photography are collaborating on a new wedding floral/photography studio on South Avenue. Both were former members of wedding creatives at Studio 180 in the St. Paul Quarter.

Sterling Studio plans to open its retail site for walk-in customers for St. Valentine's Day, upcoming holidays and all South Wedge events.

The owners say the new business was named in homage of the historical mural painted on the inside wall.

To learn more about the award-winning floral company, visit www.flowerpowerdecor.com.

653 South Ave.

WEDGE ME IN

SWPC Board member Frank Logan, Sister Nancy Vendura, CSJ, and Donna Smith

SWPC Annual Wedge Me In brought together residents and new and old friends to learn more about the organization, helped to raise funds for SWPC's programs and just have fun!

Alexis comes to Wedge Me In every year and is always a big raffle winner

Paul and Lorraine Whitehouse

Sean, Christine and baby Violet O'Connor

Felton and Ann Culbreth, South Wedge Victory Managers

Kelvin Knight, City of Rochester Assistant Administrator, and new SWPC board member Becca Webb

SWPC Board Chair Jim Papapanu

SWPC Board member Philip Borrelli and John Lam

Irene Allen and Jim Mayer

Nicole Inzana, David Nelson and Becca Webb

Nathaniel Mich, SWPC Vice Co-chair, Hedonist chocolatier and Wedge restaurant critic, served as raffle master.

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Fuego Coffee Roasters

It must've been the concrete skies and toothy wind, dear reader, that prompted me to leave my South Wedge nest in search of new life and new civilizations (or coffee roasters) on this dreary Sunday. And so we present, a touch further afield than usual, Fuego Coffee Roasters. Tucked away on Liberty Pole Way (it's odd, and telling of our urban social geography, that I would think of downtown Rochester as "tucked away," isn't it?), nearly brand new Fuego is a splash of color and roasty toasty goodness in the otherwise drab landscape of a Center City winter.

I knew I would like Fuego as soon as I saw its exterior. With its gaily painted cement facade, cut and weathered metal sign and the chalked-on hours, this coffee shop would have been at home among the radical print shops and coffee co-ops of a place like Oaxaca City, Mexico. Already I felt warmer, despite January's best intentions.

The interior is somewhat stark, however, done in a neutral palette and decorated only with unmatted photographs and paintings. I enjoyed the little touches: the chalk illustrations of the "Aero-press" brewing process on the menu, the hammered copper of the espresso machine, and the puzzles on the counter. Metal bar stools and a single loveseat are the only seating in the small space. With a steady trickle of customers, however, most of whom seemed to know the barista, the shop never felt crowded.

Fuego is Rochester's second profile coffee roaster, after Joe Bean on University. Profile roasting is used to coax specific nuances of flavor out the beans, as opposed to the usual classifications of dark, medium and light roast. Profile roasting goes hand-in-hand with single origin, direct trade coffees, where the beans are bought directly from the farmers. Such coffees are described with the same language we use to talk about artisan wine, chocolate, beer and cheese. Where Fuego is unique in the Rochester coffee scene is their use of rotating single origin coffees for their espresso drinks as well as for the made-by-the-cup coffee (other roasters and shops use house espresso blends). When I visited, they were using Kenyan, Mexican, Columbian and Rwandan beans for the coffees and the Rwandan beans for the espresso drinks.

I started with a cappuccino and a biscotti. The cappuccino – served in to-go cup due to a temporary absence of the real dishes – was topped with a modest cap of foam and a simple but pleasing latte art design. I don't enjoy searching for my coffee through the foam, so I liked the less-is-more approach here, where there was just enough First Light Creamery milk to temper the coffee without feeling like it was diluted. The coffee was intense but not unpleasant, with a good balance of tannin, acid and richness, and the suggestion of fruit notes around the edges. The biscotti (not house-made), studded with chocolate, walnuts and fennel seed, was the perfect complement. After learning that the espressos were single origin, I opted to try a straight shot as well. The espresso was pungent and aromatic, capped with a rich ochre crema. It was sharper and more sour than I expected, and I found a lot of citrus and resinous flavor. This was certainly an espresso that demanded a slow, thoughtful enjoyment.

Fuego has several signature drinks on the menu, including several based on toddy, a concentrated 24-hour cold brew coffee. I am excited to try those, and to watch what energy and contributions Fuego makes to the building steam of Rochester's coffee movement.

Fuego Coffee Roasters, 167 Liberty Pole Way. Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Sunday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Edge of the Wedge

continued from pg.1

warehouses would put plywood or concrete blocks and filled in all those big windows into solid walls."

Apparently there are significant tax credits if the Buckingham Properties follows certain design guidelines that requires altered architecture be restored to its original glory.

Buckingham Properties plans for the façade were not available at the time of publication,

Highland Market

continued from pg.1

including any flooding that may result from a new asphalt parking lot. Siegrist assured the group that "internal grading and sewer drainage will be required."

Preliminary site plan findings, in November 2013 revealed additional information about the project that brings good news to some opponents of the renovation plans. A pole sign at the corner of South Avenue and Linden Street that was to be removed 30 years ago will definitely have to be removed during the new construction. The city requires that signage in an R-1 zone is limited to one size, either attached to the building or on the ground. If the sign is on the ground, it can be no taller than 4

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Harry G's Wants Your Recipe on Their Menu

by Nancy O'Donnell

Harry G's New York Deli & Cafe owners Al and Mary Beth Giglio

Harry G's New York Style Deli & Café has already built a reputation for its gigantic subs and distinctive weekly specials. Now owners Albert and Mary Beth Giglio have inaugurated an online "Fan-wich" Championship, a competition that challenges customers and kitchen cooks to create a sandwich that Harry G's will put on the menu.

The Giglios began by posting an intriguing question on their website: "Have you ever built the perfect sandwich and thought, I MUST share this with the world?" Now is your chance. Harry G's is giving you the unique chance to create a sandwich, have it named after you and featured on our menu, and win a whole bunch of free food in the process."

Now the deli's received hundreds of "good ideas" said Mary Beth. The first competition ended in January. Two other competitions are planned for April and August. The only requirement is that a recipe be "original and cost and time effective."

"We've gotten some really clever ones, using different ingredients like lemon vinaigrette," said Mary Lou. "Some are really specific about instructions like what [ingredient] goes on what.

Mary Beth has also invited her "great team" of workers to create new dishes. This invitation to join in building a menu has led to neighborhood favorites like artichoke soup or spicy chilies.

"I'm not a big eater," laughed Mary Beth, "but I'm a connoisseur."

Along with increasing community involvement in their menu, The Giglios are planning a bigger line of gluten free and vegetarian dishes in the coming months. Stop in and see what's good to eat!

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The Pet by Justin Hubbell

Justin Hubbell

Wedge Cartoonist Completes First Book

Local comic artist Justin Hubbell ("The North Wedge", "Em," "Ask Gojira") has recently completed his first book, a 30-page autobiographical series, *The Pet* that tells the story of his life after college, and has been submitting it to publishers.

"I wanted a multifaceted comic," says Justin, "It's a story about how my girlfriend and I came into owning a bearded dragon, but it's also about life after college, about things not working out the way you dreamed of when you're younger."

The entire comic can be found on Hubbell's comic blog: www.justinhubbell.com. Justin has already received one offer from a small publisher, but he's still sending the strip out to larger publishing houses.

"The Pet actually started out as an exercise in drawing. I hadn't drawn comics on a regular basis in some time, and I was coming closer and closer to the date where I would have to begin drawing for my graphic novel. I was pretty rusty," said Hubbell. " At first The Pet was a test to see if I could make every page of a ten page comic look different, but the more I got into the story the more I realized it was going to be a 30 pager." Justin has already begun working on revisions to The Pet, so fans can expect changes when the book is finally released.

Highland Park Tree Tours

Enjoy Highland Park Neighborhood Docent Tours led by horticulturist Amy Priestley. On Sat., Feb. 15, the "Dead of Winter" tour includes complimentary cocoa and chai. On Sat., March 15, the "In Search of Spring Tour" allow participants to learn about early blossoms and spring bulbs. Tours run from 1-2:30 p.m. and begin at the Lamberton Conservancy. All tours are free and family friendly. Wear suitable footwear for park conditions. To learn more visit, highlandparkrochester.com.

RCGC 23rd Annual Spring Symposium

Rochester Civic Garden Annual Spring Symposium, Landscaping Ideas that Work, on March 1, 2014 at the Memorial Art Gallery. For more information, go to website www.rcgc.org or call 473-5130 or visit 5 Castle Park, Rochester, NY 14620

Third Wednesdays Horticultural Talks

The City of Rochester in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Monroe County is offering free monthly horticultural talks at the Cornell Cooperative Extension-Monroe County office in the Highland Room at 249 Highland Avenue talks are every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. On Feb. 19 Amy Priestly will talk about cut flower production and Dan Shied discusses Spring Cleanup on March 19. To learn more visit, discuss http://blogs.cornell.edu/monroe/programsevents/winter-horticulture-series.

S.E. Voice of the Citizen Votes for Traffic Calming

Southeast Rochester community members who developed a project proposal for the City of Rochester's participatory quadrant initiative, "Voice of the Citizen," to improve public safety were successful. They will receive $50,000 for a traffic calming and neighborhood enhancement campaign.

Marcia Zach, Highland Park Neighborhood Association, was instrumental in getting the proposal written along with other members of the project team including Lisa Reagan, Cypress/Linden Neighborhood and representatives from Laurelton Area Unites Great Homes (LAUGH), N. Winton Village and Beechwood neighborhoods.

The proposal joins neighborhood activists and block clubs together to hold community events that educate residents and drivers about traffic safety issues through campaigns and demonstrations. For example, the Highland Park Neighborhood was first in the city to create BoulevArt, painted murals at the corner of Meigs and Linden Street near Ellwanger-Barry playground. Other projects include adding signs like "Residents at Play" or "Children and Pets Live Here" to alert drivers.

The neighborhood enhancement projects are designed to improve safety and minimize blight through the use of community engagement activities such as mini clean sweeps, flower planting, increased porch lighting and greater business involvement in these activities. Community outreach activities will focus on social events for the whole family, diversion programs for youth and families and opportunities for positive interaction between neighborhoods and the Rochester Police Department. (The entire proposal is available online at highlandparkrochester.org.)

Community representatives have 60 days to submit a plan for implementation to the City's

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Yi, Ei, Yi, Ei, Noooo!

by Christopher Guinn

Many of us grew up with the "Old MacDonald Had A Farm" nursery rhyme. As children, the song taught us about Old McDonald's happy farm animals, and perhaps more importantly, it gave us an image of what farms look like; rolling green hills, sprawling pastures full of happy cows and playful pigs. Now as adults, we are confronted with information that directly contradicts the nature of American farms as we were raised to understand them.

It's safe to assume that America's meat and dairy industries love the Old MacDonald nursery rhyme. To this day children are raised to think that farms are humble operations where happy animals are cared for by loving farmers. While small family farms certainly exist, they are shadowed ten times over by the colossal footprint of big ag.

The unfortunate reality is that the vast majority of America's farms today in no way resemble Old MacDonald's farm. Rather, 21st century farms can hardly be called farms at all. Rolling green hills have been replaced by seemingly mile-long windowless sheds. Open pastures have given way to sprawling lagoons filled to the brim with manure. Happy cows and playful little pigs are anything but happy and playful. To the contrary, farmed animals are subjected to unfathomable cruelty, and it happens day in and day out right here in the U.S.

Here's a glimpse at some standard practices on U.S. factory farms: Pigs are castrated and have their tails docked without anesthesia. Pregnant pigs are confined to "gestation crates," pens so narrow they are unable to even turn around for their entire lives. Dairy cows are artificially inseminated repeatedly so they

Happy calves or dinner? You decide.

continue to produce milk. Calves born to dairy cows are removed from their mothers almost immediately to be whisked away to veal crates. Egg-laying hens are packed so tightly in "battery cages" that they are unable to even spread their wings.

It may seem that as consumers we are powerless to stand up against this cruelty, but we underestimate the power of our dollars. As demand for animal products drops, so too declines the amount of animal suffering. To our credit, we are not the mindless consumers big ag would hope us to be. There's no denying the fact that farmed animals are just sentient as you and I. They are not objects and we know it, they are individuals with the ability to suffer. Pain is pain, and a cow, pig, or chicken, feels pain just the same as our beloved cats and dogs do.

With a wealth of irrefutable information out there touting how healthy and sustainable cruelty-free living is, and with meat-free meals now tastier than ever, it's no wonder vegetarian eating is on the rise. So, why not give some more compassionate choices a try? Devise a game plan that will work for you. Maybe start by cutting out chicken or fish. Perhaps skip meat at breakfast or lunch. Once you decide, go for it!

Christopher Guinn went vegan in his junior year at Emerson College in Boston. Soon thereafter he began volunteering with local animal welfare organizations and developed a passion for activism. He has been a touring Outreach Coordinator for Vegan Outreach since the fall of 2013.

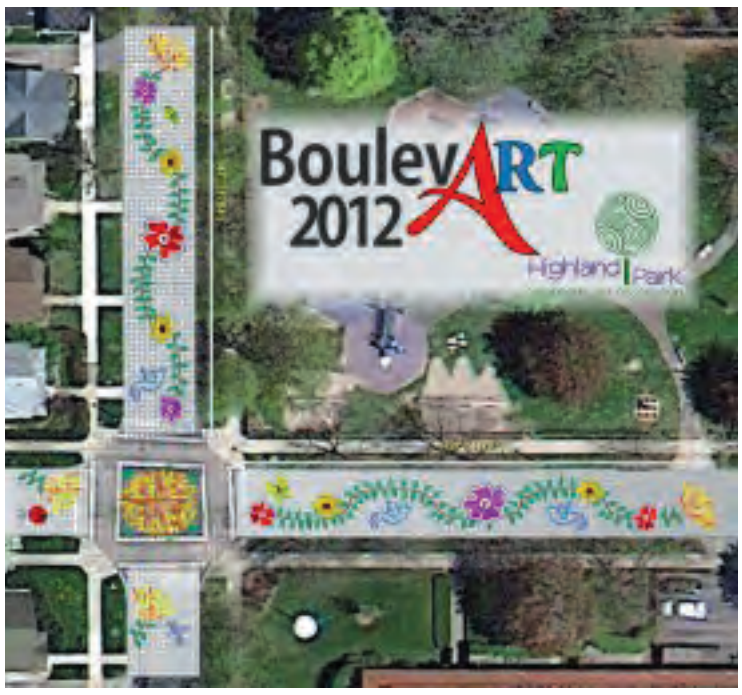
Voice of the Citizen

continued from pg. 10

Neighborhood Business and Development Commissioner Del Smith.

The "Voice of the Citizen" Budgeting for Public Safety initiative ended on Monday, Dec. 16 with a total of 840 votes cast. The Southwest quadrant winner was the Jobs for Life career and community education program which will provide job referrals and mentors for 30 adults and tutoring for 60 youth in science, technology, engineering and math. The project also includes seminars on block club leadership, civic engagement, financial literacy and home buying as well as a youth disaster recovery workshop that teaches skills in disaster preparation.

The Northwest quadrant winner was entitled Crime Prevention through Environmental Design. The items to be funded in this project include tactics to encourage pedestrian traffic and discourage loitering, street drug sales and gambling. These would be high visibility pedestrian crossing signs, increased brightness of street lighting in select areas, outdoor café seating for rotating use among the quadrant's restaurants, stores and delis, sidewalk plantings and hanging baskets and vacant storefront art. The Northeast quadrant winner was the GIS Scholars Program. The VOC funding will allow the program to add 5 to 10 more students to after-school training in the operation of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. The students will create a mapping project designed to assist with crime prevention in selected areas. They will collect data and identify crime rates through the mapping technology, create maps to plot variables surrounding crime such as property ownership, poverty, proximity to services and others. They will publish and share their results.



The Highland Park neighborhood was the first in the city to use decorative art on the streets near a local playground as a traffic calming device. Other neighborhoods might also benefit through the City grant.

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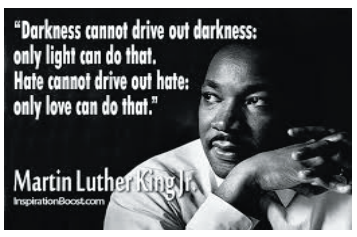

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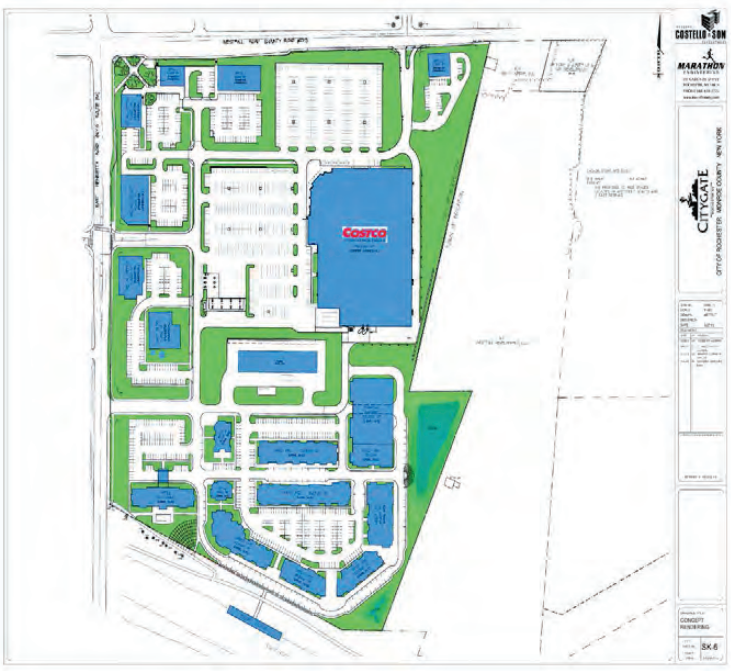
City Gate Designs Envision Thriving Commercal Hub

Dan Hurley, president of the Upper Mount Hope Neighborhood Association, is excited that the CityGate project is “picking up speed.”

He sent the Wedge initial site plans for the CityGate pocket park located on the Northwest corner of East Henrietta and Westfall Rd along with designs for the four out parcel buildings two of which are adjacent to the pocket park.

Phase two will be primarily from Stan Yale Dr. which is in the north/south midline of the project,south to the canal involves the "street of shops", housing along the canal and hotel.

To learn more, email president@umhn.com.



Highland Market

continued from pg. 9

feet. Outdoor seating remains a prohibited use in a residential area for which no variance is available.

While the findings praised the South Avenue façade for its clerestory windows, stone façade and awning above the door, it questioned a less “active” Linden Street façade in the plans. That side included a planted trellis midway along the wall, but the findings questioned “the reliability of ongoing care and maintenance and harsh winter conditions.” It argued instead that two clerestory windows be added which “would glow when the lights were on.”

Finally, the lack of landscaping that plagued the site for years will be remedied. Stefanou’s plan shows the addition of seven new trees in the public tree lawn.

According to project information Stefanou submitted to the city, the expected length of time to complete the project would be one year.

BIZ KID$ Camp

February recess, Feb. 17-21, 9 a.m. 4 p.m, Tay House Lodge in Cobbs Hill Park, 85 Hillside Avenue, near School #1, Free with breakfast and lunch. Free supplies. Start your own business, present yourself professionally, manage money, create business cards, flyers and ad. Win Cash prizes. For more info, call or email Kristina at Rec Program 428-7371.

Donate Pop Bottles, Change a Child’s Life

First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc., a nonprofit at 219 Hamilton St., offers an alternative to leaving your refundable NYS bottels and cans out at the curb. Monies raised from returnables funds the Charles Riley Tutorial Program. Call 461-0379 for info.

Your Ad Here!

Rochester Bicycle Boulevards Plan
Tuesday, -February 11, 6 p.m.
Kate Gleason Auditiorium, Central Library
115 South Avenue

The City, in partnership with the NYS Dept. of Transportation Council is developing a plan for implementing bicycle friendly neighborhood streets to connect destinations throughout the city.

The meeting will provide an overview of the project, describe existing conditions and solicit suggestions from the public regarding desired routes, destinations and other priorities. After a brief presentation, attendee team up in work groups. Discussion will follow. If unable to attend, email Erik Frisch at frische@cityofrochester.gov or call 428-6709.

Garden Classes

continued from pg. 4

program designed for gardeners interested in an in-depth look at how to propagate their own plants: Propagating Woody Plants, Starting from Seed, Herbaceous and Softwood Cuttings, and Dividing Perennials. Members $85, non-members $120. Preregistration required, call 585/473-5130 or visit rcgc.org.

Tuesday, February 25: Plant an Indoor Winter Herb Garden, 1-3 p.m. Sue Lang and Sheryl Roets (owners of Gallea’s Tropical Greenhouse and Florist) will guide you in creating your own indoor herb garden. Learn how to successfully plant and grow herbs for winter indoors, then Dick Minoia (owner of Onion Creek Farms: “Eat Well, Laugh and Enjoy Life”) will demonstrate some creative ways to use herbs in cooking. Class takes place at Gallea’s, 2832 Clover Street, Pittsford NY 14534 (corner of Clover and Jefferson Rd). All materials included. Fee: $65. Preregistration required, call 585/473-5130 or visit rcgc.org.

Wednesday, February 26: Making the Most of it – Redesigning and Renovating Your Landscape, 1-3 pm, Rochester Civic Garden Center. Find out how common design mistakes can be corrected by dividing and moving plants, corrective pruning, effective grouping, proper siting and more. We’ll also cover how to choose plants and shop more effectively so that you don’t waste time and money. Members $22, non-members $32. Preregistration required, call 585/473-5130 or visit rcgc.org.

Saturday, March 1: RCGC 23rd Annual Spring Garden Symposium – Landscape Ideas that work, 9 am-3 pm at the Memorial Art Gallery, 500 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607. Award-winning designer, author and lecturer Julie Moir Messervy will present 2 lectures based on her recent books: Home Outside - Creating the Landscape You Love, and Landscaping Ideas that Work. Time out-of-doors is essential to our physical, mental, and spiritual health; one way to engage with nature is to create a landscape around your house that draws you and your loved ones outside. Julie will demystify the principles of landscape design in a step-by-step way. Jean Westcott, landscape designer and owner of The Artful Gardener will present Ornament in the Garden – A Designer’s Perspective: even the smallest of garden spaces, much like rooms in our home, can be defined and personalized by the effective use of ornamentation. Tickets: $48 RCGC members, $58 non-members. Ticket allows you all-day access to the Memorial Art Gallery exhibits. For more information call 585/473-5130 or visit rcgc.org.

Tuesday, March 4: Starting from Seed, 6-8:30 pm, Megan Meyer, of ‘Gardens Through the Seasons’ garden design and maintenance, will cover the techniques for sowing annual, perennial and vegetable seeds, the merits of buying seed versus collecting your own, timing for indoor and outdoor plantings, and indoor seed-starting setups. Members $25, non-members $35. Preregistration required, call 585/473-5130 or visit rcgc.org.

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