

The WEDGE

The Official Newspaper of the South Wedge Since 1982
South Wedge Planning Committee, publisher

FREE	
Inside	
Swillburg Shout Out!	2
Synchronicity	5
Past-due Water bills Aid	5
Cub Scout Fun	6
South Wedger's Take on	
Climate Change	7
Crisp Restaurant	8
Anyones Cafe & Bakery	8

The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery Plan Holocaust Project

Pat Corcoran
FOMH Board Member

In June of 2021, Tony Filer, a member of the Board of The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery (FOMH) suggested that the Friends consider honoring the memories of Holocaust survivors buried in Mount Hope.

While a student at Monroe Community College, Filer had been involved with the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Project and was eager to pursue recognition for Holocaust survivors. The FOMH Board voted to form a Holocaust Committee chaired by Marcia Birken and Marjorie Barkin Searl, with membership including Pat Corcoran, Dennis Carr, Tony Filer, Kristine Klein, and Nancy Uffindell.

The Holocaust Committee has two projects underway. The first is the creation of a Holocaust Archive on the FOMH website. This is located at <https://fomh.org/cemetery/holocaust-archive/>.

Identifying survivors was facilitated by using the Jewish Community Federation's Center for Holocaust Awareness and Information (CHAI). By cross-referencing the names of survivors on the CHAI website with burial records from Mount Hope Cemetery, as well as from other sources, the committee has been able to identify more than 80 survivors who have grave markers or cenotaphs at Mount Hope. They have documented the location of each grave, including the synagogue plot, range, row, and grave number. To date, they have posted complete stories of 38 survivors on the FOMH Holocaust Archive web page, including a picture of the gravestone, location information, and a link to the person's Holocaust

story.

Where there is no information on the CHAI website, the all-volunteer committee, aided by community members and MCC students, is painstakingly researching each survivor.

The second project is to erect a monument at Mount Hope Cemetery memorializing those who were affected by the Holocaust.

The word "Remember" will be inscribed just below the star on the front of the monument, with the word in Hebrew inscribed on the corresponding location on the back of the monument.

Also, on the front side of the monument (facing the road) words similar to what is below will be inscribed: "We honor the memory of those Rochesterians who endured the tragedy of the Holocaust, many of whom are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery. From their stories may we learn to create a more caring and just community."

Two semicircular benches will surround the monument, each with a single quote inscribed. One quote by Elie Wiesel reads, "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness." The second will hold the words, "The opposite of good is not evil, the opposite of good is indifference" by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

The Holocaust Committee is planning to develop educational programs as well as a self-guided walking tour and map of the Holocaust survivors' graves.

To learn more visit <https://fomh.org> or email pcorc@aol.com.



A wooden 3D model of the Holocaust monument. Both sides of the star will be "stepped," so that the star will appear gray against the black granite.



Mt. Hope Cemetery's Holocaust memorial will be located along Adlington Avenue in front of the Temple B'rith Kodesh plot (Section 7), between two large trees. The monument will be flanked by two curved benches.

Think Small!
We all know large corporations had a cushion during the pandemic. Now more than ever small businesses need our support. Let's be there for them!

Don't Miss South Wedge Farmers Market Holiday Pop-ups!

Chad Flint, Market Manager

The weather is starting to warm up, and we are busy getting the 2022 South Wedge Farmers Market ready for the season. We have several new vendors joining and continue to work on securing more unique locally made products for you to peruse each week. The 2022 season opens Thursday, June 16, and will run every Thursday from 4 to 7 pm. We will be back in the Odd Fellows parking lot at 357 Gregory St. again this year.

We still have one more holiday pop-up market to go on Thursday, May 5, for Mother's Day. Visit us from 4 to 7 pm at the Odd Fellows parking lot to shop more than 20 vendors for gifts that will make the day special. Bonnie from Upstart Berry Farms will also return for the pop-up with a small selection of spring produce.

Anyone interested in becoming a vendor at the market of volunteering to help, please reach out to Chad at chadflint33@gmail.com or call 585-259-2968. We're excited to welcome everyone back for the season!



Highland Park Lilac Festival Returns on Three Weekends in May May 6-8, 12-15, 19-22 - 10:30am - 8:30pm



The Highland Park neighborhood is filled with the intoxicating scent of lilacs in spring. (Photo by Maya Reagan)

The largest free festival of its kind in North America in spring, the Highland Park Lilac Festival, returns three incredible weekends.

The event begins with the Lilac Parade on May 7 at 10:30 with 20 marching bands and the popular Damascus mini cars. Olympic Gold Medalist and Pittsford native Chris Lillis is grand marshal of the Lilac Parade. The parade also honors Monroe County's bicentennial with a "Big Sing" after the parade where more than 2,500 annual parade participants join in song to honor the county's long history. The parade starts South Avenue to Highland Avenue and ends at the corner of Highland Avenue and Goodman St. On May 22, get ready to run at the 43rd Lilac Run. The Run benefits Champion Academy that helps urban teens in poverty.

In between enjoy the beer and wine tasting expo, art in the park-dont' miss the 2022 Lilac Festival Poster by artist Diane Palmer Elmslie (The Wheatland resident will be signing copies at the

merchandise tent sometime during the festival. Then there's the Dunkin Dash, a kid's zone, festival foods and of course, the beautiful fragrant gardens of lilacs along with pansies and tulip bed.

Make sure to visit rochesterevents.com for a list of the days and times of the performances.

Here's just a few of the amazing bands playing at the festival-Blues Traveler, The Coupe De'Villes, Junkyard Fieldtrip, Driftwood, Zac Brown Tribute Band, Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad, Dirty Blanket, Bumpin Uglies, Big Eyed Phish, Ripe, Aqueous, Organ Fairchild, Anders Osborne & Jackie Greene, Low Cut Connie, Seven Wonders, Into the Now, Workingman's Dead, Root Shock, Blue Sky Brothers, Uprooted Band with Michael Glabiki of Rusted Root, Black Joe Lewis & the Honeybears, The Sideways, Steve Grills and the Roadmasters, Cool Club and the Lipker Sisters, Big Blue House, JUMBOshrimp, Teagan & the Tweeds, Texas King, Litz, Blue Sky Brothers, Diggler's Bridge, Parsonsfiled, Kitchen Dwellers and The Collection.

Swillburg Shoutout

Mike Henry



Photo by Joshua Jacobs

Beautiful Spring Things in the Swillburg Neighborhood

Happy Spring, no doubt we are all hoping for beautiful things soon to come! Swillburg neighbors are cultivating events that are sure to add beauty to the season. Come April 24th we will have a Pop-Up Sale of neighborhood merchandise and swag, from 11 AM to 3 PM, in front of Victor Burgos' Swillbarber Barber Shop, 22 Henrietta Street. There will be new merchandise including cool Swillburg pillows. Two previous sales brought together neighbors, and merchandise was flying off the table, the proceeds from which go to the Swillburg Neighborhood Association (SNA). To view the SNA catalog, visit: <https://swillburg-neighborhood-association.square.site/s/shop>.

In May we will participate in the city's annual Clean Sweep. Swillburg's effort will be by neighbor Megan Fitts, who did a fantastic job last year. The Bloom Garden at Field Street and Monroe Avenue has always been a priority of the neighborhood, and we hope you will join us. The exact date has yet to be posted, but we will update you via Nextdoor and

Swillburg Facebook. On May 19th we will also be participating in the United Way's Wilson Day of caring. Neighbor JoAnn O'Neill will lead volunteers in cleaning up the vegetable garden at School 35. Annually this is a great boost to the neighborhood as we prepare for the growing season. Also, Judy Hay delivered the good news that the city school district will soon allocate funding to upgrade the School 35 playground.

To follow-up the last issue's column, construction of a parking lot at 350 Benton Street (corner of South Clinton Avenue) was reviewed by the city planning commission on March 28th. Neighbors requested no egress onto Benton Street as well as fencing and shrubbery to promote the ambiance of a residential street, a request that the SNA plans to advocate for. Well, isn't all this what urban neighborhood associations are for: friendships, community empowerment and collaboration? No doubt we will have an update for you in our next issue. Hope you have a beautiful Spring!



Children's Pavilion Is Coming Back to Highland Park

Members of the Highland Park Conservancy are elated the Monroe County Legislature authorized full funding for the Pavilion project on March 8, 2022. Frederick Law Olmsted (2022 is his 200th birthday) sited the pavilion

at the highest point of the park. The three-story open-air circular pavilion offered panoramic views of the park and city. It fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1963. Look for more news about it in the June/July WEDGE issue.

RCommunity Bikes Serving Rochester Since 2004

Patti Giglio

RCommunity Bikes has been providing used bikes to Rochester's residents in need for two decades. Bikes help them to get to work, medical appointments and other activities. By having these bikes, life is just a little bit easier for them.

Over the past 20 years, RCommunity Bikes has given more than 2000 bikes away each year and repaired an additional 3000 more. And in 2014, tricycles have been available for the disabled, allowing them to enjoy increased mobility and freedom.

Their headquarters is located at 226 Hudson Avenue. RCB also works with five satellite locations, including Ashbury First Methodist Church and St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.

The pandemic limited RCB's efforts, but it did not keep them from helping, but now they are fully reopened. If you or someone you know needs a bike, giveaways are held on Wednesday and Saturday beginning at 9:15am at 226 Hudson Avenue.

If you would like to help RCommunity Bikes with their mission, you can donate your old bike or donating your old car to Vehicles for Charity, where the proceeds will benefit RCB. Monetary donations can be mailed to PO Box 26471, Rochester 14626. To learn more about RCB or find out how to volunteer, visit RCommunitybikes.org or email info@rcommunitybikes.net.



Anyone's Co-op Cafe & Bakery Set to Open in South Wedge

Anyone's --there's an apostrophe were a bee should be--, a worker-owned plant-based cafe and baskery is opening soon in the South Wedge.

A soft opening was planned for Friday, April 14, but soon it will be opening and selling delectable food and baked goods made with the commitment and passion only worker-owned established can bring.

In the meantime, they're giving away @stonyrabbit art stickers as long as supplies last and making plans for a May Day vendor sale on May 1. The Facebook description of the stickers say they're "UV protected and waterproof, so, they are safe for your ride." The menu includes cookies, cinnamon rolls, and muffins,



breakfast sandwiches, wraps, andwiches, burgers, soups and a sides. They also will have a full coffee and espresso bar bottled @katboocha kombucha, tea (hot and iced), and bottled juice.

133 Gregory Street. Check social media for more info.

Anyones Cafe & Bakery

GRAND OPENING

FRIDAY APRIL 29 SATURDAY APRIL 30 SUNDAY MAY 1
7AM - 3PM

Rochester's new plant-based worker owned cooperative café starts serving baked goods, breakfast, and lunch! Hosting a May Day sidewalk sale on May 1st to celebrate our Grand Opening with local vendors, art, workshop sign ups, and so much more!

Soft opening starting April 15th.

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Mark's Texas Hots
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The WEDGE Newspaper

Editor Nancy O'Donnell Hale
nodonnell@swpc.org
585.256.7640, ext. 4

Writers

Mary Allen, Pat Corcoran,
Maggie Blaisdell, Joan Brandenburg,
Chad Flint, Patti Giglio,
Mike Henry, David Kramer,
Michele Martell, Nancy O'Donnell Hale
Glynis Valenti

Copyeditor

Ann Logan

Photographers

Maya Reagan,
Nancy O'Donnell Hale

CONTACT

E-mail staff, type first initial, last name@
swpc.org. South Wedge Planning Committee
224 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, NY 14620,
585.256.1740, ext. 4

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

SWPC 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.

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Glynis Valenti, executive director
Nancy O'Donnell Hale, WEDGE editor
Chad Flint, market manager

Consultants

Norm Karsten

South Wedge Planning Committee Meetings

Meetings are held at 224 Mount Hope Avenue in the South Wedge. The community is invited to attend all meetings.

SWPC April & May Calendar

SWPC Board Meetings
Wednesdays, 6 p.m.
April 20 & May 18
flogan@rochester.rr.com

Community Engagement
(Neighbors & Block Clubs)
Wed. April & May 5:30 p.m.
gvalenti@swpc.org

The WEDGE Wants You!
Do you have a story you want to tell? A photo you want to share? We want to hear from you. Please email thewedge@swpc.org or call 585.256.1740, ext. 4

ZAP Propose Changes in South Wedge in Zoning

Glynis Valenti

In accordance with the Rochester 2034 Comprehensive Plan approved in 2019, the City of Rochester is revising the zoning code. The Zoning Alignment Project, or ZAP (www.rochesterzap.com) is now underway and has just finished the first group of public information meetings. Most people do not realize what impacts the proposed changes will have on their neighborhoods.

The first proposed change was included with the 2034 Plan: re-designating the South Wedge from R-2 (2-4 family residential) and R-1 (single-family residential) to entirely Medium Density Residential (MDR) with the possibility of allowing conversion of up to four units per property. This will impact parking, noise, traffic, and other quality of life issues for many residents and businesses.

Under the latest set of proposed changes boarding houses and bed & breakfasts would be allowed in MDR

without a process for regulating or licensing. This is relevant to the South Wedge because of the neighborhood's proximity to the University of Rochester and RIT bus routes.

Currently neighbors are notified when a non-conforming use has been proposed by a property owner. There are many uses that would be automatically permitted in residential areas under the new proposal without notice: home daycare, home adult daycare, hospice, and business occupation among other uses.

It's important to be informed about these changes whether you are a tenant or a property owner. To read more about the Zoning Alignment Plan visit the website www.rochesterzap.com where the proposals and maps are under "Documents." If you have questions, contact SWPC Director Glynis Valenti at gvalenti@swpc.org.

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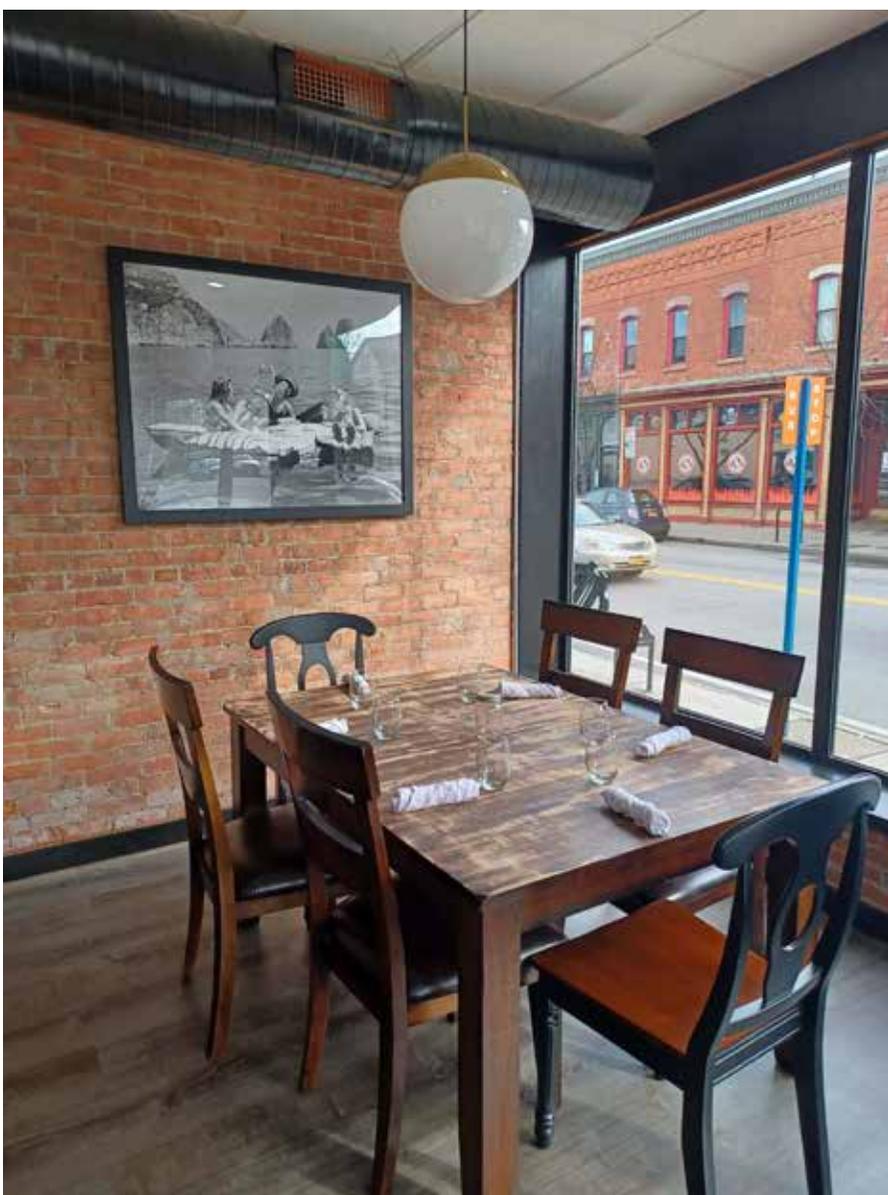
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417 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620

CRISP Restaurant Brings Texas Flavor to S. Clinton Avenue

Nancy O'Donnell Hale



Inside CRISP restaurant on South Clinton Avenue at Meigs St. (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)

Texas native Wendi Loyet found herself in Rochester when her wife Valerie got a job offer. The couple packed up their house, their children, moved to a Rochester suburb (at least until the teens graduate says Loyet). After she retired from a long career in advertising and marketing, the couple's dream of opening a restaurant only they could --"modern comfort food with a Texas influence"--began to take shape.

"I've been front of house, back of house in restaurants," said Loyet. In Rochester, she worked for a time at Roam on Park Avenue (yes, she was the one who made those spectacular Arancini).

The couple turned to Roam owner Drew Nye for advice.

"He was our mentor, our savior," Wendy said. "He helped us in every aspect of getting ready to open a restaurant."

When the couple heard that Brick & Ivy on the corner of South Clinton and Meigs was closing, they jumped.

"We redid the bar and changed it up. It's both cozy and elegant," said Loyet and added she especially likes "the walkability, its diversity" in the South Wedge.

Loyet is precise about defining CRISP's ethos (she was also a writer for a time). CRISP serves "seasonally inspired, modern comfort food, sophisticated cocktails & local beers served in an old school chic setting."

While she manages, Valerie (of course) is CFO, and Chef Karin Lupusnak, formerly

with restaurant 80W, heads the kitchen.

Their menu has all the markings of the Big Star state. Appetizers and shares include "Billionaire Bacon, Honey Truffle Popcorn Chicken, the Dallas Elote Cup (sweet corn, garlic, house aioli, cotija cheese, Mexican crema, fresh lime juice, spices and hot sauce), Pickle Chips, Garlic Knots and a "secret family recipe" for Pickled Jalapeño Pimento Cheese served on Ritz crackers. Sandwich offerings include house burgers and "Crispy Vegan Burrito." Entrees range from steak and fries (a 10 oz. aged Angus Reserve Stockyard steak topped with Iron Smoke whiskey peppercorn cream sauce), Fried chicken and churro, seared Ahi tuna and and more. Add tacos and ribs and craft cocktails and brunch bowls and biscuits and gravy and a long lunch menu, and eggs in all manner of dress, and oh, my, it's going to

A soft invitation-only opening was held on Friday, April 14th. Of special interest to the neighborhood are their plans to open for lunch and to offer brunch on Sunday and Monday and the 40-ft. long patio alongside the building on Meigs Street soon to be set up.

You can stop by and welcome the Loyets to the neighborhood on Thursdays 11:30-10 p.m., Friday & Saturday 11:30-11 p.m., Sunday & Monday 11 - 9p.m.

819 S. Clinton Avenue, Rochester. Visit CRISP on Facebook and Instagram and online at <https://crisprochester.com/>.



Somewhere in the South Wedge

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Photo courtesy of CRISP

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Synchronicity: Messages from the Universe

Michele H. Martell

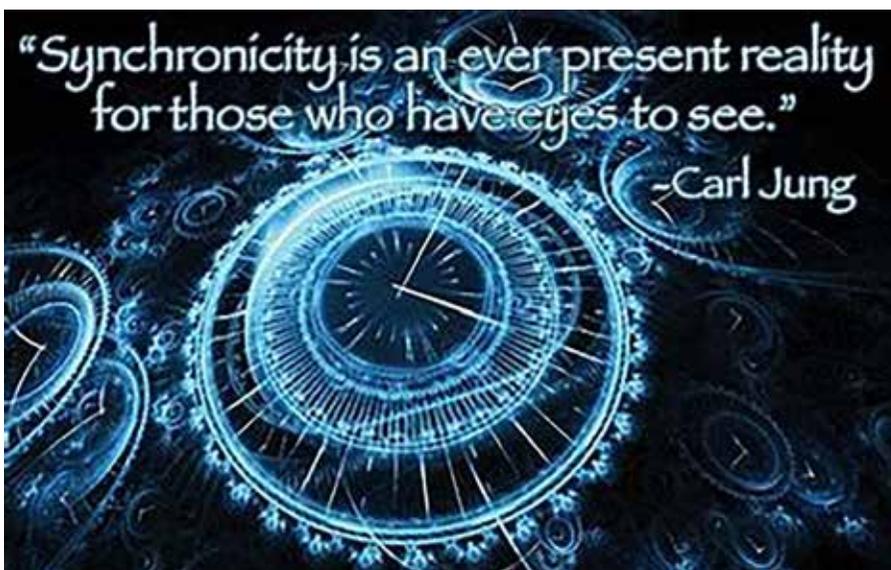
Have you ever experienced simultaneous moments or events that seem to amazingly gel in a way that you are unable to explain? Or you think about something or someone, and then that thing or person appear in your life? Or you continue to see the same numbers over and over in sequence? Maybe a song that matches your thought suddenly starts to play? And you think, "Hey, what a coinkadink!"

Some call these types of occurrences coincidences. Coincidences can seem random and meaningless, just a funny thing that happens from time to time that may catch our attention in a light way. As life can be a funny thing. At times these subtle incidents seem to repeat themselves in a rather uncanny way.

Personally, I do not believe in coincidence; but I do believe in synchronicity. We often may hear the term "everything happens for a reason" which speaks of connectedness and a bigger picture.

The concept of synchronicity was first introduced by Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung "to describe circumstances that appear meaningfully related yet lack a causal connection."

Synchronicity is energy and clarity. It is being open to signs that have a deeper meaning and can provide valuable guidance. As you recognize and develop your life purpose and raise your energetic vibration, you may see more synchronicities that may initially appear as just random experiences. It can be related to the adage that you get what you put out into the world or "like attracts like". For example, I have found the days that I set the definitive intention to have a positive mental attitude and openness to a meaningful day, I become more aware of significant connections and flow during my day, even when the day doesn't always turn out how I've hoped. Even if that day becomes a shit-show. It's the open awareness that is key,



and there's something to learn from it.

Some also believe that when you experience synchronicities you are receiving confirmation from angels that you are on the right track in your life, that you are leveling-up. Synchronicities are not always happy and joyful. They can also be simultaneous occurrences that may bring about distressing realizations, but still serve as a connection to a much larger picture where the pieces concurrently fit together. Synchronicities are seemingly unrelated repeated occurrences that can point you in the right direction of who and what is good for you and what is not. It is a matter of following your intuition and trusting it.

Synchronicity cannot be forced. It is an energy that occurs in life due to an intentional surrender, openness, and awareness that there is a sparkling force at play that is much larger than our individual influence can ever be. Developing that openness is like building any muscle; the more you cultivate it, the more you can rely upon it and flow with it. And once you have that muscle, you realize that it is in the best interest of your well-being to listen to it.

So, the next time that you experience several occurrences that seem related, but you just can't put your finger on it, take some time to determine if you are maybe, just maybe, experiencing synchronicity and what it may be there to show you.



Michele H. Martell
(Photo by Sarah Jeruta Salvilla)

Kitchen Foil Stories

200 words = Money for Charity

Too many of our stories go untold; stories of mentors, friends, family, and even strangers that influence how we live.

The Kitchen Foil Stories (KFS) project aims to give these stories a platform and philanthropic purpose.

By submitting your story, starting at only 200 words, you contribute to a unique collection of wisdom and history.

The Kitchen Foil Stories Project is an online publication housing a collection of true, positive stories, each accompanied by an illustration created by a professional illustrator.

Illustrations and Kitchen Foil stories merchandise will be available for purchase with all proceeds benefiting the Margaret House in East Rochester, NY, a home that provides shelter,

education, and love for struggling young mothers. On its website, The Margaret Home describes itself as "a residential empowerment program that revives hope for mothers who maintain a limited or broken support network and who struggle with the often-invisible wounds of trauma." The Home serves women through all stages of pregnancy and early motherhood. The women receive "a self-directed action plan along with resources to enable the achievement of personal, educational and professional goals that can lead to independence for a woman and her family."

So, you may be wondering, why kitchen foil? Kitchen foil is a versatile metaphor that describes the mission of the project. First, much like we use foil to preserve food, the KFS website preserves our

stories. Secondly, when you make a crease in foil, you can never make it perfectly smooth again. In a similar way, every event in your life leaves an impression on you. Third, foil is reflective and these stories encourage both the author and reader to reflect on their lives. Finally, "kitchen" evokes a sense of community; we sit around the kitchen table with others to share our stories.

To learn more or submit to the project, email Maggie at mcb1695@rit.edu or visit the KFS submission site: <http://sites.google.com/g.rit.edu/kitchenfoilstories>. The Kitchen Foil Stories project is the senior capstone of RIT graphic design student Maggie Blaisdell under the direction of Mark Kingsley.

Maggie Blaisdell

Nuclear War Protest Remains a Presence on East Avenue

David Kramer

For the past 20 years, there has been a small gathering at the corner of East and Goodman in Rochester, from noon to 1:00. According to Hank Stone, "People simply stand holding signs, and wave to passersby. Some of them honk, wave, smile, and/or flash us the peace sign. It is a moment of peace and sanity in a world that can sometimes seem anything but sane. It's fun! Come do this some Sunday and see what you think!"

Nuclear weapons are illegal!

People can be forgiven for not knowing this, but the world has made designing, building, stockpiling, owning, selling, transferring, using, and threatening to use nuclear weapons illegal, anywhere on earth!

This is the treaty of the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which went into effect on January 22, 2021, after being ratified by the 50th country. So, does this mean the U.S. is on course to give up its nuclear weapons? Not anytime soon. Because the 9 nuclear weapon states, including the U.S. did not sign the treaty, so the nuclear weapons ban doesn't apply to them. Still, the U.S. should join the rest of the world in the ban. Any town, county or state can declare itself in solidarity with this treaty. This gives cover to national elected officials who want to the U.S. to stand with the rest of the world for peace." The members of the peace vigil encourage local officials to sign a pledge with the treaty, The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) City Legislation Pledge.

Brighton town council member Robin Wilton pledged to support the TPNW. In an interview, Wilton made the following statement as to why she made the pledge. "I think that the most dynamic leaders today think transformatively, as opposed to incrementally. In order to address the challenges that we have today, we must imagine the world that we want to live in, as opposed to being constrained by our current circumstances and the limits of existing systems. As Nelson Mandela famously said, "It always seems impossible until it is done." We are not going to wake up tomorrow and have a world free of nuclear armaments, but that does not mean that should not be the end goal. Similarly, those striving from decarceration know that re-imaging the criminal legal system does not happen overnight. I think the adoption of a resolution like this in both symbolic and a moral statement. While the Town of Brighton does not have the ability to enact the mandate in the treaty, we nonetheless, are engaged in collective activism that raises awareness about the issue and makes a moral statement about where our money will be invested."

How the town of Brighton will act on the United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons has been up for discussion on the Community Services Committee agenda in February and March. If you wish to follow its progress, the next meeting is April 20th at 9:30am at the Brookside Recreation Center.

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Family Voices Poll: Helping Children to Thrive

The results of a recent poll of 400 Monroe County parents in regard to the issues their children and families are facing have been released. The balance between caring for children and work is a crisis or major problem from 7 out of 10 Monroe County families with 5 out of 10 parents stating that the stress that they are feeling stems from the pandemic. The stresses of the Rochester family can be broken down into three major issues.

Families are concerned with access to affordable care they need for their children. Income losses, as well as the rising cost of childcare and health care. Half of parents are worried that their children have fallen behind academically because of disruptions to in-school learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And finally, they are also concerned with their children's mental health.

The pandemic magnified mental health issues that may children in Rochester and Monroe County already faced.

Parents are looking for systemic support that will help them ensure that their children will thrive as our community begins a long recovery from the financial and health crisis caused by the pandemic.

The following statement was released by The Children's Agenda Network about public policy. "What families have told us calls for bold action that provides for the needs of the whole child and the whole family. Our funding and regulatory systems may distinguish between "childcare" and "after-school

care," but parents don't. Parents need safe, quality, affordable places for their children, no matter their age. Similarly, while our systems are siloed between health, education and social services, families need that cut across those systems. Families' needs can only be fully met in an integrated way. The supports parents are asking for can be provided by a changed in public policy and smart use of public funds."

Based on parental concerns, the network is suggesting the following changes to policy. Child tax credits need to be expanded at both the state and federal levels. \$5 billion should be dedicated to move New York state toward a system of universal, affordable, quality childcare that compensates providers at a rate that reflects the actual cost of childcare. Funds need to be restored and increased for quality after-school programs. The wait time for children who need developmental services needs to be reduced with increased reimbursement rates for providers for Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education. And finally, supports for mental health needs to be increased in the Rochester City School District with the investment of \$30 million for restorative practices, \$5 million for Help Zones and \$5 million for various other mental health supports.

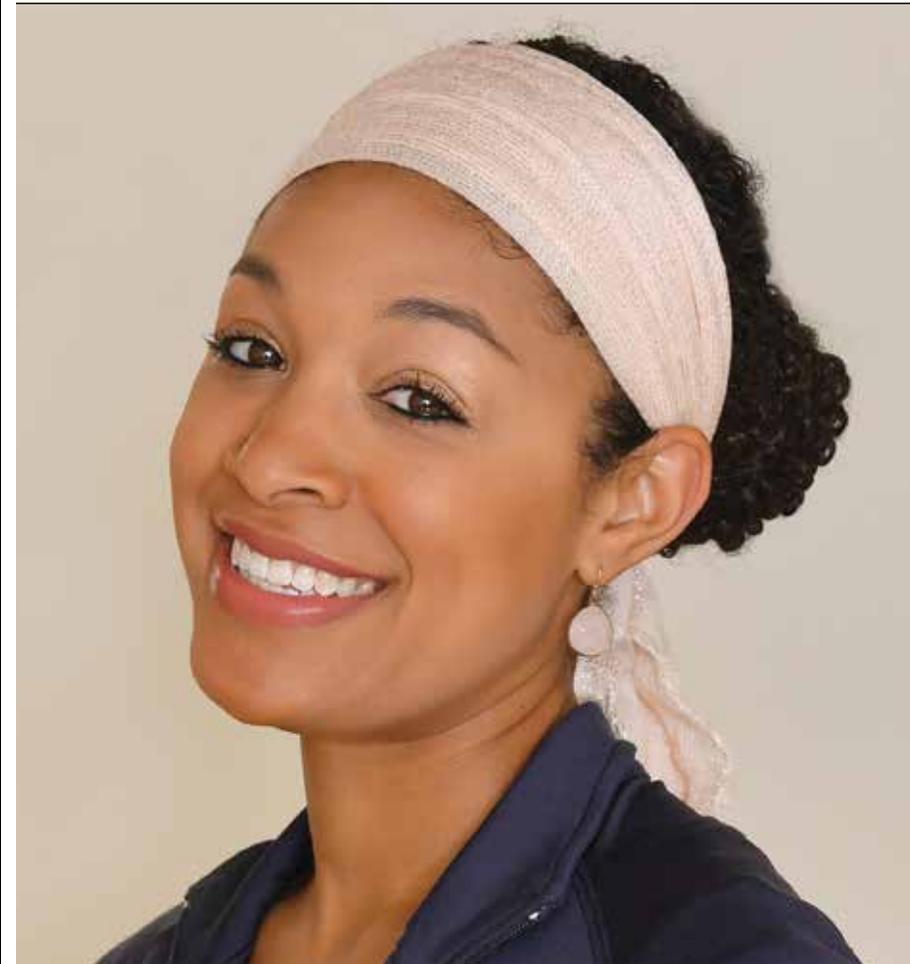
Rochester parents and families are invited to join local family advocacy groups by calling 585-256-2620 or by visiting www.thechildrensagenda.org.



Happy Easter



Happy Passover 2022
The WEDGE celebrates the beauty of our diversity.



Neendra is a Registered Nurse who works in Same Day Surgery.

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Join SWPC in Community Building

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to join in making a difference in southeast Rochester. Join our board of directors or serve on a committee.

Founded in 1978, SWPC acts as a conduit for federal or state repair grants that help keep people in their aging homes.

SWPC works in a myriad of ways to build community through the annual

South Wedge Farmers Market (June-September), South Wedge Victory Gardens on Hamilton and Cypress Streets and The WEDGE Newspaper publishes six issues each year.

Your time, talent and passion can help us to continue SWPC's work. If interested, please call 256-1740 or e-mail gvalenti@swpc.org or board chair Frank Logan at flogan@rochester.rr.com.

Support the Wedge!

For 36 years, *The Wedge Newspaper* has chronicled the lives and times of the vibrant South Wedge neighborhood and beyond. Please consider subscribing and get a Wedge card, too. Fill out the form and send a check or money order to the address below.

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Calling All Kids for Co-ed Cub Scout Fun in Pack #20

Andrea Borrelli

Last September, Cub Scout Pack #20 held its first official Den Meeting, though its foundering members have been meeting and having fun since May 2021!

We started with just 4 Scouts, and now we are 14 strong and looking to grow! It's incredible to think about all the amazing opportunities and fun we have had since last spring.

We've visited the zoo, toured the 490 Farm, had Summer Camp at Cobbs Hill, hiked Washington Grove and built campfires. We organized a neighborhood food drive, collected money for St Joseph's House of Hospitality at the annual "It's a Wonderful Life in the South Wedge." We visited the South Ave Fire Station and the Rochester Museum and Science Center, and we held our First Annual Pinewood Derby Race! Wow! All that in our first year, and we plan on having tons more fun this year!

And while our scouts were busy having all this fun, den leaders and family members sneaked in lessons on good citizenship, worked on character development and leadership, promoted personal fitness, and instilled respect for nature.

In Cub Scouts youths develop new skills and interests, they practice sportsmanship and good citizenship, and they learn to do their best, not just for themselves but for their den, family, and community.

Unfamiliar with scouting? Let me tell you how it works.

The Cub Scout curriculum consists of specific "Adventures," tasks and activities the Scouts complete during the school year, dependent on their age and Cub Scout rank. As they complete Adventures they receive recognition for their achievements in the form of belt loops, badges, and ceremonies. At the end of the year, they advance to the next rank, Lion (kindergarten), Tiger (1st grade), Wolf (2nd), Bear (3rd), Webelo (4th), and Arrow of Light (5th).

In Pack #20 this year, our younger Scouts have been learning about game play and teamwork, exploring the natural environment around them, making healthy food choices, and learned about acts of kindness and service projects.

Our older Scouts have learned how to safely use pocketknives and hand tools in building things. They have learned about

patriotism and service to others.

We will soon be learning about safety in nature, cooking outdoors, plants and animals, and we will all be working towards a Pack camping trip this summer.

And among all of these activities, we are reinforcing and practicing the values written into the Cub Scout Law--being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

A few more details about our Pack; we are a co-ed pack! Girls, boys, and families of all races, sexual orientations, faiths, and abilities are welcome! We may be "Pack #20 Highland Park" but we welcome kids from all areas of the city and surrounding suburbs.

We never want financial hardship to impede a youth's ability to participate in scouting. Financial assistance is available to help with the initial cost of joining scouting.

Our pack meets two Thursdays a month at the South Wedge Mission at 125 Caroline St, plus one Saturday a month for a community activity.

Parents--if any of this sounds interesting and you'd like your child to learn more about scouting, send us an email at pack20highlandpark@gmail.com. We are happy to answer your questions. You and your child can visit and participate in a den meeting, meet the crew and see what we are all about.

If you don't have kids of scouting age, please still keep us in mind and keep an ear out for us. Our Pack is in the process of planning some community service and fundraising activities. (Pancake Breakfast in the works for Early Summer!!!)

We are thrilled to be a part of this community. Scouting is about youth development, but we also think it's about community development, and we plan to be active in the community to achieve both missions.

We will need your help to be successful, whether it's buying a tin of popcorn in the fall, providing non-perishables for our next drive, or eating some delicious pancakes. We promise to return the favor by supporting our community as much as possible.

Again, please email me, Andrea Borrelli, Pack #20 Cubmaster, at pack20highlandpark@gmail.com.

Veterans Outreach Center begins \$7 million Renovation Project

Joan Brandenburg

Pass-by the corner of South and Cypress and you will see a lot of construction equipment in place. It is part of a major renovation project spearheaded by Veterans Outreach Center (VOC).

The agency services over 3,000 veterans each year. A groundbreaking ceremony for Richards House,

their emergency shelter for homeless veterans was held on Friday, February 11th. The renovations are part of VOC's Operation Safe Haven campaign, raising nearly \$7 million for much-needed facility updates.

"We are so grateful to our donors, supporters, community partners and everyone who has helped to make this renovation possible," Veterans Outreach Center Executive Director and U.S. Army Veteran Laura Stradley said. "These upgrades will provide a safe space where veterans can find shelter, support and comradery. Addressing veteran homelessness requires the comprehensive, one-stop approach available at Veterans Outreach Center. Our wide range of services -- health and wellness, housing, training, employment services, and more -- create the critical pathway to get the brave men and women who served our country back on their feet."

Upon completion, the project will add 16 beds, which will close the gap between the number of homeless veterans and the number of shelter beds available to them.

The new space will feature an elevator to the three-story building. Given that many of our veterans are older and/or disabled, this is an extremely important addition. Veterans will have expanded laundry space, common space and additional bathrooms. They will gain privacy through single or double dormitories, as opposed to the current structure of 4-6 man bays.

Since 1973, Veterans Outreach Center has been committed to improving the quality of life for veterans and their families by offering free, veteran-specific services, including employment counseling, vocational training and housing for homeless Veterans.

For more information about VOC services please call 585.546.1081 or visit www.vocroc.org. Residents living in the South/Cypress streets area are encouraged to contact VOC with any comments, questions, or concerns.

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Little Shop of Hoarders Plans Grand Re-Opening

Alas, the Little Shop of Hoarders said goodbye to the South Wedge, but owner Monika Ludwinek recently announced plans for the shop's "spectacular" grand opening on April 22 at 447 Monroe Avenue. The grand re-opening will include burlesque shows, special sales and vendors.

The LSOH embraces being eco-friendly and fights against throw-away culture and fast fashion. This focus on the environment and sustainability was the inspiration to choose Friday, April 22, for re-opening.

"Why did we pick April 22? Because it's Earth Day," said Monika Ludwinek. "We love Planet Earth, and that's precisely why we chose that day."

In honor of Earth Day, the shop will have an "Anti-Fast Fashion" fashion show. Fast fashion refers to cheap, trendy clothing designs that move quickly from the catwalk to the store in order to take advantage of current fashion trends which are generally here today and gone tomorrow, leaving an enormous amount of consumer waste and pollution.



The special guests for the fashion show have yet to be announced, but they will be bringing their own curated collection of vintage. Some will bring upcycled vintage clothing that has been used to create their own unique brand.

The festivities are not just limited to Friday night. Little Shop of Hoarders will be hosting guest vendors that will be selling their own vintage collections in their event room all weekend.

"The event room was never shared on social media because it was the crème de la crème of surprises," says Monika, "and friends, surprised you shall be."

The one-of-a-kind celebration on Friday night runs from 4pm to 9pm, Saturday noon to 6pm, and Sunday 10am to 4pm.

Anyone who is interested in setting up as a vendor can contact the shop at lit-tleshoprochester@gmail.com. Visit them at <http://www.shophoarders.com> and on Facebook @ [littleshopofhoardersRochester](https://www.facebook.com/littleshopofhoardersRochester).

Attention Little Shop of Hoarder Shoppers! 15% off all gift cards ends on Friday, April 22. Buy now & Save. Spend later, thank yourself. Shophoarders.com

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It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood - For Climate Change

Mary Allen

Being a South Wedge resident is a thing to be proud of. I am proud to live in a neighborhood where I can walk to healthy local grocery stores and locally owned shops. I am excited I can ride my bike along the river, play with my dog in the parks, and participate in community gardens. I am proud to live in a neighborhood filled with rich history and an amazing housing stock of beautiful, unique homes. By choosing to live here I already am making sustainable choices in my everyday life that many do not even

have access to. But can we do better? The jig is up, the climate is changing, and those changes will dramatically affect our built and natural environments. Every day that passes feels like a ticking clock. Am I doing enough? What can I change? How can I help? Where do I begin? I began with these questions. How can a problem as big as climate change affect my neighborhood and my neighbors? What could be done at the scale of a neighborhood to make a difference? Fortunately I was able to pull together

a team of students to help me begin to answer it. I teach in the Environmental Design program for the University of Buffalo, and I have a background in architecture and urban design. We organized a semester-long project analyzing climate action at a neighborhood scale and zoomed in on the South Wedge neighborhood. We want to share our findings with all of you. Over the next few issues, we hope to highlight individual projects and ideas found through this analysis. Following is the forward to the reports, the full report can be found at www.swpc.org.

driven to inaction. Our design question: How can designers and planners better connect solutions to scales that impact our everyday life?

The group analyzed neighborhood-based climate solutions to better connect individual community members with practical targeted action items within their community. This analysis was broken down into three phases across the semester. First, understanding: listening and analyzing the many complexities in the community. Second, design: developing unique design and practical planning place-based solutions. And finally, action: developing a publication toolkit that communicates impact, action items, timelines and resources.

The South Wedge in many ways represents a typical small scale mixed use urban neighborhood in a small historic city. Like many similar neighborhoods across the United States this area boasts a strong sense of community and motivation for change, but often lacks the resources to organize these changes. This typology represents a unique opportunity as cities begin to invest in climate adaption strategies nationwide.

The goal of this study is to provide a framework for further work not just in the neighborhood but for a larger network of communities tackling climate adaptation together. Following in this report is a summarized version of END 450's efforts, a practical and hopeful approach to climate adaptation at a scale that balances community and climate."

As spring approaches and we wake out of our snowy slumber, I hope you all get out into the neighborhood and explore some of these questions yourself. I said it before and I will say it again, I am proud to be a South Wedge resident.

This report is only a small starting point, let's bring climate action to life and ensure that everyday is a beautiful day in the neighborhood.



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The June/July issue of the WEDGE will be packed with news... the South Wedge Farmers Market opens its 16th season. Gardeners break ground at our Victory Gardens. You'll find more about new local businesses, read profiles of local authors and artists and so much more! If you have a story to share please, email thewedge@swpc.org.

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AmeriCorps week was celebrated March 13-19, 2022, during which the commitment of millions of Americans who have chosen to serve their country through AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors was recognized.

They also encouraged others to follow in their footsteps of services. AmeriCorps engages 250,000 Americans each year in sustained, results-driven service through our AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Senior programs.

These dedicated citizens have helped communities manage COVID-19 response, ensure that students stay on track to graduate, combat hunger and homelessness, respond to natural disasters, fight the opioid epidemic, help seniors live independently, support veterans and military families, address racial equity, and trauma informed care, and much more.

In a press release, Walida Monroe, program director of the Flower City AmeriCorps gave a special shout out to the members of the Flower City AmeriCorps members and staff for their valued service

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