

THE WEDGE

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

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Upstart Berry Farm (Photo by Chad Flint)

South Wedge Farmers Market Opens 16th Season on June 16

Chad Flint, market manager

Opening night of South Wedge Farmer's Market 2022 is quickly approaching. We return to 357 Gregory Street (Odd Fellows Lodge) every Thursday from 4 to 7 pm beginning June 16 and running through September 22. With a great mixture of returning vendors and new vendors, we hope to have something for everyone. Maybe more than a few somethings! As we enter our third season in our current location, we encourage everyone to come out as many weeks as possible to visit all our great vendors. We will have fresh produce and fruit, bread, eggs, maple syrup, baked goods, vegan cheese, local beef, candles, jam, pickles, art, and so much more!

Returning to the market this season are Bailey's Wearables, Beyond Beads, Divine Ember Naturals, Estey Toffee, Fiddlehead Farm, Gods N Gladiators, Greenlight, The Little Lady Bug, Mark and Amy's Pickles, McAndrew and Company, Sister Dolores, Soulistic Sweets, The Little Brownie, Third Eye Henna, Upstart Berry Farm, Vetter's Beef and Flint's Maple.

New vendors joining us this season include Backyard Gardens, Coffee

Connection, Crystal Core, Estrella De Teirra, Impact Earth, Sensual Scents by Vega, Spirit and Abundance, The Creamatorium, The House of Alchemist, and Wildflower Lane.

We will also have different community organizations joining us throughout the season such as Color South Wedge Green, Rochester Mutual Aid Network and The Small Business Development Center.

Follow the market on social media (@SouthWedgeFarmersMarket) or on our website (www.swfm.org) to see exactly which vendor will be there each week. We do our very best to keep everything as up to date as possible. Expect weekly giveaways leading up to each market as well as raffles during the markets this season.

We would like to thank all the shoppers who supported our pop-up markets in the winter and spring, they grew in popularity as the year went on, and we are hoping to carry that momentum into our regular summer season..

Anyone interested in becoming a vendor at the market or volunteering to help at the market, please reach out to Chad at chadflint33@gmail.com.



Hamilton South Wedge Victory Garden was SWPC's first. Cypress Street followed. Photo by Jesse Knoth

South Wedge Victory Gardeners Begin Turning Soil

Erin Francisco

If you've ever wandered down Hamilton or Cypress Street in the summertime, on the blocks between South Ave. and Mt. Hope, you've probably noticed them: two house-less plots brimming with vegetables, flowers, herbs, and sometimes a few unruly strawberry vines (I speak from experience). These two sites are home to the South Wedge Victory Gardens. For over a decade now, the gardens have brought neighbors together to explore the world of horticulture, collaborate on growing gardens, and find community.

Urban agriculture has become quite visible these days, and given the increasing cost of food, wide-spread interest in sustainable living, and a growing body of research that shows how getting out into nature is good for us, it seems that the popularity of community gardening won't fade any time soon. Indeed, Mayor Malik Evans and the "Rochester 2034 Comprehensive Plan" have both touted the benefits of community gardens and set the

continues on pg.10

Seek-a Kreations Offers Home Decor and Magical Gifts Story on pg. 9



Song lyrics by Amanda Lee Peers at Seek-a Kreations at The Shops on West Ridge



Keri Tudisco's decoupage

Somewhere in the South Wedge



Central Library Secret Room Reopens after Renovations



Two girls read books amid the George W. Cooper Doll Collection in the Secret Room of the Rundel Memorial Building, October 25, 1940. From the collection of the Rochester Public Library Local History Division. Story on page 8.

Opinion

Time to Check Out City & School Budgets

Now that the weather is warming and our days are filled with more blessed sunlight, it's time once again to turn our eyes to the Rochester City and School District budgets. Though the City's budget is not the first thing we may think of when the daffodils start blooming, but I hope it will be.

These budget documents are more than just a statement of the city's fiscal health. Spelled out in numbers are our elected leaders' priorities and values which should reflect those of our community. It is our job as Councilmembers to make sure of that, but it is also the community's job to hold us accountable to that ideal and let their priorities be known.

Public Safety, Housing, Mental Health, and Education have emerged as Rochester's most pressing and urgent issues, and how we spend budget dollars in those areas is critical to our city's future. You can view the 2022-2023 City budget at cityofrochester.gov/citybudget/

Before Council votes on the budget, it holds a hearing to ask questions of each department about their anticipated spending and how they made use of funds the last budget cycle. You can view these hearings that were held at the end of May on Council's YouTube Channel [youtube.com/user/RochesterCityCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/user/RochesterCityCouncil).

This year's budget vote will be held in



person (for the first time since 2019) on June 14 at 7:30 pm. You can comment on the budget and let us know how you would have the City spend the public's money during the Committee meeting on June 9 at 5 pm or during the Speak to Council Session at 6:30 pm on June 14 right before our June Council meeting.

To sign up to comment on the budget, call 585-428-7538 or email council@cityofrochester.gov. More information can be found at cityofrochester.gov/publicmeetings. At any time, you can write your representatives on Council at citycouncilmembers@cityofrochester.gov.



Cheesy Eddies, 5% off
602 South Avenue

Equal=Grounds, 10% off
750 South Avenue

Hedonist Artisan Chocolates & Ice Cream, 10% off
674 South Avenue

Happy Earth Tea, 10% off
696 South Avenue

-Little Button Craft, 10% off
658 South Avenue

Mark's Texas Hots
Open 24 hours!
10% reg menu item
487 Monroe Avenue

Stuart's Spices, 10% off
\$10 or more
754 S. Clinton Avenue

The WEDGE Newspaper

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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. Printed bimonthly (February, April, June, August, October and December), The WEDGE has a readership of 13,500. Originally a print publication, it switched to electronic publication (www.swpc.org) in Spring 2020, and is today posted to multiple outlets and listservs. Please send story ideas or news to the WEDGE, 224 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rochester, New York 14620 or email thewedge@swpc.org. Advertising deadlines and rates are available online at www.swpc.org or call 585.256.1740, ext. 4.

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

Get the Wedge!

For 37 years, The Wedge Newspaper has chronicled the lives and times of the vibrant South Wedge neighborhood and beyond. Please consider becoming a WEDGE supporter. You'll get the issue or printed and emailed to your home and a Wedge card, too.

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

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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Kristina Wood, secretary
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Jeff Carlson, Jr.
John S. Frank
Alvin Lomibao
Robert Marvin

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Mitchell Dannenberg, John Dennis, Joe DiDonato, Cheryl Stevens

Staff

Glynis Valenti, executive director
Chad Flint, market manager

South Wedge Planning Committee Meetings

The community is invited to attend all SWPC meetings held at 224 Mount Hope Ave. (Hamilton St. entrance).

June/July Calendar

SWPC Board Wed. 6 p.m.
June 15, July 20
For info, email flogan@rochester.rr.com

Community Engagement (Neighbors & Block Clubs)

Wed. 5:30 p.m. June 22, July 27
For info, email gvalenti@swpc.org

Join SWPC in Community Building

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to join us 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. It works in a myriad of ways to build community through the annual South Wedge Farmers Market, South Wedge Victory Gardens on Hamilton and Cypress Streets and The WEDGE Newspaper that 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.

Time For Wine & Spirits

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--Pope Pius XII



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Social Justice Music Weekend

Peg Gefell and Paul Frazier

Meet up with activists, musicians, and songwriters for an energetic, music-filled weekend. Led by musician, songwriter and music teacher Maria Gilliard, we'll learn about and create songs and chants for social justice--climate crisis, racial justice, militarism with emphasis that "No sound is illegal."

The music weekend takes place at the Arkport Catholic Worker Homestead, 8614 Brown Road, Arkport, NY, about an hour south of Rochester in the Southern Tier.

There's plenty of room for inside sleeping and lots of space for tents. Meals are vegetarian and delicious!

We begin Friday, June 10, with dinner, then shared songs and agenda setting for the weekend. Saturday workshops will fill the day, and Saturday evening we'll be joined by a few local musicians to add to our singing.



507-295-7279 to register

The cost is on a "contribute what you can" basis.

Openings are limited. Call 607-295-7279 for more information and to register.

Peg Gefell and Paul Frazier are members of Arkport Catholic Worker Homestead

If you have an opinion you want to share, please send to thewedge@swpc.org.

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Swillburg Shout Out!

Mike Henry



Kellie, Mike Henry, Dave Ferguson (Photo by Judy Lee Hay)

Happy Spring! I hope everyone is as delighted as I by the seasonal beauty. It's taken the season sometime to get "through winter's surly pass," but the beauty of the blooming trees and flowers makes the delay all the more gratifying. Swillburg's Labyrinth Garden on Henrietta St. seems extra vibrant with daily visitors, many of whom bring cameras and children. Spring time is always fun and busy for the Swillburg Neighborhood Association (SNA). On May 5th some twenty volunteers, neighbors and non-neighbors, came out for Clean Sweep. We cleaned the Bloom Garden at Field St. and Monroe Ave., under the leadership of neighbor Dave Ferguson. We also raked the area along the art panels on Pembroke St. Our next Spring event will be on Thurs. May 19 for the United Way Day of Caring. As she has for

many years, neighbor JoAnn O'Neill will coordinate volunteers to prepare the neighborhood vegetable gardens at School #35. This is an all day event with lunch donated by local restaurants (more about this in my next column). Next up is our annual Swillburg Picnic on June 23 at Otto Henderberg Park at 4 Sycamore St. What's normally a potluck affair will be a food vendor affair. We're currently considering options to ensure widespread gastronomic and cost appeal. This event will be announced on Nextdoor, on the Swillburg and WEDGE Facebook pages. No doubt we'll have music and very likely it will include some by Blanche Calloway, a neighborhood daughter who went on to celebrity status, as did her brother Cab. SNA hopes to erect a memorial to her at Henderberg Park, joining one that memorializes her brother. We'll share more info on this project as it develops. A big shout out to neighbor Josh Jacobs and volunteers for the April Pop-Up sale of Swillburg swag. A big thanks to Victor Burgos at Swillbarber on Henrietta St. who opened his front yard for the sale. Swillburg merch can always be ordered online at Swillburg.com.

Traffic Turtle Says Slow Down!



Flo, or maybe it was Mo (anonymity was requested), took to South Ave. in April alerting cars to slow their speeds. Grinning a big turtle smile for several hours, Flo and Mo waved their signs hoping to get motorists to be more mindful while driving city streets. Eventually, one of the turtles got tired and crawled home. Flo/Mo said that some drivers slowed, but a few took her request as a challenge. "One guy saw me and sped up and ran a red light at Gregory St." Flo/Mo plan to return with their smiles and signs until South Wedge streets are safe for all.

Be a Good Neighbor and Keep it Down

Ah, Summer! Windows are wide open. Lawn mowers rev up. Being a good neighbor means being mindful of neighbors whose idea of bliss may be listening to the summer wind or buzz of cicadas. Blaring music or mowing your lawn at dawn does not a good neighbor make. Even if we want to tell our neighbor to close THEIR windows and stop complaining, we are all in this together. The City of Rochester's brochure entitled "How to be a good neighbor" offers guidance about local noise ordinances. The

City ordinance defines the rules: "Noise should not be audible beyond 50 feet from your property line between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m." That means lower the volume after 10 p.m. "Noise should not be audible beyond 50 feet of your property line between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m." That means no mowing your lawn at 6 a.m. Breaking the noise ordinance makes a lot of your neighbors very unhappy and being cited may result in fines which will make noisemakers even more unhappy. So, let's all be good neighbors, and let's all enjoy a summer of fun.



Andrea Borrelli

Cub Scout Pack #20 would like to formally invite the entire neighborhood, South Wedge, Highland Park, and beyond, to our 1st Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser, June 11th, 8:30 am to 11:30 am at the South Wedge Mission! Let us feed you! Tickets are only \$5, so you can feed the whole family, socialize with neighbors and support kids programming in the neighborhood for around \$20! That's the best deal in town! We also hope to have some fun raffles and kid's activities, including inflatable archery! Also available at the event will be Cub Scout Camp Cards. For only \$5 you get discounts to 250 local restaurants and merchants, including many in our own neighborhood, such as Zemeta, The Angry Goat, Cub Room, Coffee Connection, Sea Restaurant, and local pizza shops, to name just a few! Think of Camp Cards as a new version of the old school Entertainment coupon books! Tickets can be purchased from any Pack #20 Cub Scout you may know, Hedonist Ice Cream, and by e-mailing the pack at pack20highlandpark@gmail.com.

The breakfast, the Camp Cards, and the raffles are all important to helping us fund our Cub Scout program in the neighborhood. With the money provided by this and other fundraisers we will keep registration costs and dues as low as possible, to ensure that Pack #20 is as affordable as possible for all city youths. Our neighborhood Cub Scout pack serves boys and girls, kindergarten through grade 5, throughout the city and neighboring suburbs. Through programming activities and adventures, Scouts have fun, make friends, learn to enjoy and respect nature, develop new skills and interests, practice good citizenship, and work on character development. I personally, as a mom, den leader and Cub Master for the Pack have really enjoyed learning about scouting this past year. It's meaningful programing that we are putting our own spin on to make it work for our city community and youths. Come eat. Come visit. Come learn about scouting. Come support a neighborhood program. Just come!

Again please email me at pack20highlandpark@gmail.com for tickets or any questions.

find it.

axom home

axomhome.com
661 south ave.

We're all sorry to hear that McCann's Local Meats will be closing August 13 after seven years on S. Clinton Ave. In the meantime, while hours may change over the remaining weeks, for now the kitchen will be open 9am-5pm Tuesday-Saturday. Retail will open 9am-6pm Tuesday-Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturdays.

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2018 TOP 100

Keller Williams Realty Greater Rochester 2000 Winton Rd S. Rochester, NY 14618



Stuart's Spices Celebrated 30th Anniversary

Stuart started grinding and blending premium spices 30 years ago. Tom and Vicki Finnefrock took over the business 11 years ago.

The Finnefrocks swap stories and recipes not just with in-store customers, but with customers via email and social media. They work with not-for-profits within the community, from Foodlink

to food pantries and soup kitchens, and other organizations that help those in our community.

"Our hardworking staff members are amazing," says Vicki. "Our gratitude runs deep to all who have helped make Stuart's Spices a success." 754 S. Clinton Ave, 585.436.9329.

Buy an ad for
Aug./Sept. 2022
online issue.
Call 256.1740, ext. 4
Deadline
July 20ish

Business Buzz **Open Face Bigger & Better at George Eastman Museum**

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Open Face restaurant is only a few steps inside the door of the George Eastman Museum* on East Avenue, but all the beloved dishes owner Jared Valentine served in the South Wedge are still there along with a lot extra.

The 16-seats at his cozy South Ave. restaurant has expanded to 70 at the museum. During summer months, he can offer even more tables outdoors.

There's a bright airy feeling to the space. Near the front counter a row of vivid floral photographs line the wall while opposite hangs a huge donor-gifted neon sign that reads "Rick's Café." Outside the windows the Eastman's Garden is just coming into bloom. The space still retains Valentine's love of Modern Americana with a glass jar of bottle caps next to the coffee thermos and a menu that reflect his small-town Ohio roots.

Valentine celebrates his second anniversary at the museum. Keeping a South Wedge mood, he says his new home also comes with two resident ghosts. Although he's never seen George Eastman or his housekeeper, Molly, he's heard the stories.

"Molly has been seen floating on the third floor—where the offices are, but I've sometimes thought she's been around here when things are breaking or go missing, stuff is going weirdly awry," said Valentine, laughing.

The Eastman Museum Open Face still seems essentially South Wedge, but Valentine has added more.

"It has the Open Face theme, but it's really the best of Rochester," Valentine said. "I bring in a lot of local vendors. I like Cheesy Eddie's carrot cake and Red Fern jam bars, so we have them here. Our coffee comes from Joe Bean, Fuego and New City roasteries because I like their coffee."

Valentine not only put local vendors on his menu, but he's also a constant booster.

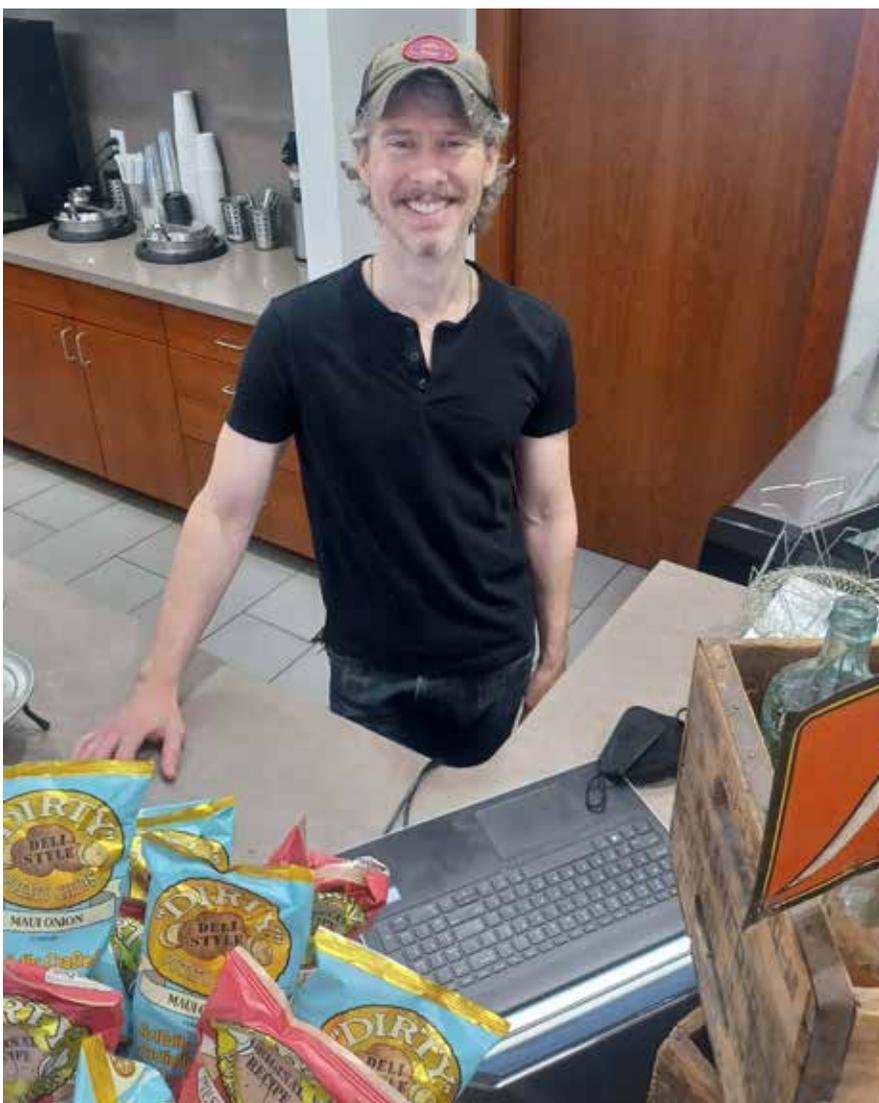
"We get Open Face clientele and visitors from all over the world. It's a great opportunity to showcase what we do and what Rochester has to offer," he said. "That's my goal. If someone says the coffee is really good, I'll tell them to go to Fuego. If they like the carrot cake, I tell them they'll really like their cheesecake. I tell them to take a walk around the South Wedge while they're in town. I like to cross pollinate."

Valentine's menu retains all the old favorites—Corn Mash, Mashed Pea, Black Bean and Chickpea sandwiches along with the usual meats and cheeses dressed with the addition of Valentine's homemade condiments like smoky maple mustard, tart cherry butter and apricot BBQ glaze.

Open Face "Tastings" invite the hungry to choose any 2 sandwich halves or a soup and a half sandwich. Ginger Carrots are still on the menu and joined by Pickled Beets, Simple Salad or Baguette Chips (drizzled in olive oil and toasted with rosemary, salt and cracked black pepper).

Beverages include a host of teas, and bottles of Moxie have returned. Moxie, with its subtle flavor of gentian root, was once sold as a cure all and sold by spoonful from the backs of wagons Valentine says, "They claimed it could cure anything."

Also added are import "Mexican Coke" and "Stewart's Cream Soda,



Jared Valentine at Open Face at the George Eastman Museum (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)

the 1924 fountain classic," both made with cane sugar, Saranac Soda (soft drinks from 1888) along with others.

The menu also emphasizes it's "kid friendly." That means the Gouda grilled

cheese with french-fried onions and a sprinkling of smoked paprika, can become just become a rich grilled cheese sandwich for junior.

The museum did ask Valentine to keep the very popular gelato selection from Royal Café in Fairport. He did just that, but he asked for a few new flavors like lavender honey, lemon basil and strawberry rose. Customers can mix and match 3 or 4 scoops or get a "Gelato Flight" of 6 or choose a "Gelato Sammie" created from Valentine's most popular Cookie Splits (one side chocolate, the other side's flavor changes).

Valentine is constantly working on new recipes or tweaking the old. He's busy creating a dessert using George Eastman's favorite flavor.

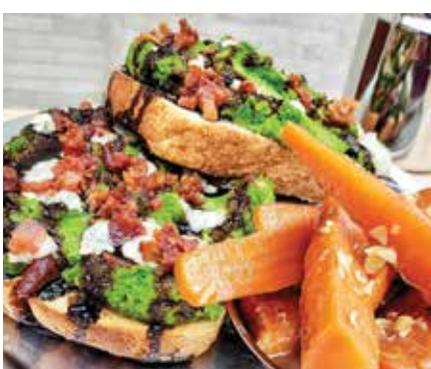
"His favorite was lemon meringue pie," said Valentine. "He liked it extremely tart and that's what I love about it. I've made his recipe, and I know not a lot of people like it tart. I'm trying to represent George while I'm turning it into a lemon bar. I want it to be absolutely perfect."

More changes in the works are the return of the Daily Special and sweetbreads.

Valentine is also looking to expand his "Homestead Catering."

SPECIAL NOTE: *Make sure you tell the front desk that you're going to Open Face Cafe and not the museum. To see the online menu, go to eastman.org and go to dropdown menu under "visit."

900 East Avenue, openface@eastman.org, menu is at eastman.org, 585.327.4940.



Open Face Mashed Pea with melted gorgonzola and bacon with signature Ginger Carrots



Homemade Cookie Splits are half chocolate chip and half chocolate-chocolate chip. (Photos courtesy of Jared Valentine)



Black Bean mashed and mixed with chipotle pesto. Served hot and open with melted cheddar, salsa crema, and french-fried onions.



Gelato in all its glory at Open Face. Valentine added new flavors—lavender honey, lemon basil and strawberry rose.



Happy Earth Tea Lands in Bon Appetit

Niraj Lama doesn't humble brag, but it's hard not to when one of American's most popular food magazines, Bon Appetit, just encouraged its readers to "Get the good stuff" at Happy Earth Tea in the April issue. The South Avenue tea bar is managed by Lama and wife Mary Boland along with a few part-time workers aka tea lovers.

Writer Max Falkowitz who specializes in tea discovered Happy Earth Tea when he visited a friend in Rochester says Lama. The New York City-based writer's article highlights a short list of six teashops based around the world in China, Montreal, New York City and the South Wedge who source their tea directly from farmers.

"[Falkowitz] really liked the [tearoom] and has been in touch," said Lama. "It's certainly very encouraging to find oneself lucky yet again. In 2017, CNN listed us as one of the best tea bars in the world."

Lama started selling teas at the Rochester Public Market in 2010. His first tea bar was a cozy space that now holds FOMO at 650 South before he moved into a larger space at the corner of Gregory St in summer 2021

During a recent visit, Long Jing green tea from April 2022 is on the menu. A mellow, tranquil and distinctive flavored tea, Long Jing's flattened leaves were harvested from China's Zhejiang province. Sipping the pale greenish yellow brew in the serene tea shop brings the benefits both physical and mental just as Lama espouses.

In a recent rochesterfirst.com, Lama describes his passion for tea and what "tea stands for": "I love the fact it is a positive product which benefits not only our customers, [but] the people in the tea fields as well. We can connect these two worlds..."

Despite national and international acclaim, Lama's greatest affection remains for his neighborhood fans.

"We're always grateful for our local customers," Lama says. "The South Wedge has been so supportive." 696 South Avenue, Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10 am - 6 pm. Closed Sunday & Monday. Happyearthtea.com. 585.730.7754.

Get the Good Stuff



Edward Steichen, American photographer's enlarged reproductions of images originally made by the artists in Dec. 1939-Jan. 1940.

Posey Letterpress to Open on Mt. Hope

Ever wonder about the little yellow building at 348 Mt. Hope Avenue across from Swiftwater Brewing Company. For years it sat empty; a mysterious Muncheez Food Truck never moved off its parking lot. It was so mysterious Swiftwater actually named a beer after the truck. But not anymore! That little yellow building is about to get a facelift from its new owners! Madelyn and Jennifer Posey, owners of Hedonist Artisan Chocolates and Ice Cream, purchased the building in



Madelyn and Jennifer Posey outside of the home of the future Posey Letterpress

February of this year. The building is to become the new home for Posey Letterpress, Madelyn Posey's letterpress and graphic design business. Madelyn specializes in Letterpress Wedding Invitations, Save-the-Dates, Birthday Invitations, Birth Announcements, Custom Stationery and more! You've probably seen her work before--she's been working as the house printer for Hedonist Artisan Chocolates for the last few years and

is now branching out on her own. The owners plan to paint the building black with white lettering to represent print on paper. They also contacted Wall Therapy about being a part of that program this year. When Posey Letterpress finally opens after some small renovations feel free to drop in and check out some antique presses (4 of them and counting), stationery, and fun letterpress things! Visit www.poseyletterpress.com, [instagram.com/poseyletterpress](https://www.instagram.com/poseyletterpress), 585-355-9768.



Romantic samples celebrate a couple's big day (left and above). Photos by Madelyn Posey



The mysterious Muncheez truck is gone for good

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!

Amberly's Eatery Opens on South Ave.

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Amberly Harris and fiancé Kevin Reik's new South Avenue breakfast and brunch restaurant, Amberly's Eatery, is already generating buzz. One soon-to-be diner waxed enthusiastic online at the thought of a café with French Press coffee on the menu. "The South Wedge community is so supportive," said Harris. We were lucky to nab the space. The cozy eatery is located in the former John's Tex Mex near Alexander Street. The bright colors of the southwest have been changed to soothing light blue and a dark grey. Art decorates the walls; one sign reads, "You had me at Bacon." The couple are familiar with the neighborhood. They rented apartments in the South Wedge and Monroe/Park Avenue area before buying a house in Greece.

that they plan to exhibit community art ("most plants and art is for sale") and invite customers to reach out for "private gatherings and projects" and plan to host game nights. During a recent visit, a new regular got up from a table where his plate showed only the tiniest bit of residue from his meal. "That was a monster breakfast!" he said, describing Skillet Dish #7 - two sausages over hashbrowns, scrambled eggs covered in cheddar and sausage gravy. "Everyone has been so friendly," said Harris as she held up two paintings a next door neighbor dropped off for her eatery. 489 South Avenue, Hours - M-F, 8-2 p.m. weekdays and 9-2 p.m. on weekends. <https://www.amberlyseatery.com>.



Amberly Harris and Kevin Reik, owners of Amberly's Eatery (Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale)



"The South Wedge community is amazing! Everyone has been so nice, a neighbor just gifted these today!" --Amberly

The menu lists mouthwatering dishes: classic egg and skillet dishes, omelets, griddle cakes, pizzas, sandwiches and specialties like the "Ron Swanson" described with the words "Just give me all the bacon and eggs you have (6 bacon, 4 eggs and toast) and the Chicken and Pecan Waffles (freshly fried chicken thighs and pecan waffles with "house peachy-keen drizzle" on the side). Six kinds of Egg Benedicts (they're called "Bennys" at Amberly's) that include Irish Benedict, of course with corned beef, and Crab Cake. Both come with hash browns or home fries. Beverages include the usual teas and juices and pop, but also 20-oz. and 33-oz. French press coffee using locally roasted beans from Aporia Coffee Co, a small local roaster. The eatery's website also announces



Inside Amberly's Eatery on South Avenue

FOR RENT

1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments
HIGHLAND MANOR APARTMENTS

905 South Avenue **271-0949**

ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED

- * 1 and 2 bedroom units
- * Right across from Highland Hospital and a quick commute to U of R and Strong Memorial Hospital

IT'S YOUR HOME. WE JUST TAKE CARE OF IT FOR YOU.

Athletes to be Honored at Hall-of-Fame Event

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Bill Conge may live in Irondequoit, but many of his happiest memories were days spent with his friends on the athletic fields in the southeast. The field of dreams for so many children ranged from Cobbs Hill to "the lot on Cayuga Street" and places in between. Many of the players didn't give up on the game and continued into adulthood.



The Moody Blues women's softball team includes Helen Hogan, former SEAC director, back row second from right

Conge grew up in Swillburg, attending School #35 and Blessed Sacrament. He worked in the City of Rochester Recreation Department for 30 years and coached sports all around Rochester including the Rochester Zenith Pro Basketball team in the 1970s. He worked with Rochester Pro Softball, The Rochester Express, when they won a world championship against Pittsburgh.

Conge along with Bill Weidenborner founded the Swillburg Women's Softball League in 1972. Eight teams took part in the league and all teams made the playoffs.

Congee remembers game nights when "families would bring their lawn chairs and line up along the first and third baselines to watch the games. A total of 160 players took part in the league."

Conge keeps the memories of these hometown athletes fresh each year by helping to organize the annual Adult Recreation Association (ARA) Hall of Fame banquet.

The ARA's history is described in its Hall of Fame Brochure: It ran as "an independent organization which encompassed many sports from the early 1960s through 1990....ARA fostered the idea that participants did not want to give up playing competitive sports because of their age." Its most successful programs were slow pitch softball, an adult team. Touch football, soft ball fast pitch leagues, hockey programs, basketball and tennis were added. While ARA as an organization is no longer in existence, in 2006 a special committee of former participants established the ARA Hall of Fame to honor select individual athletes, teams and contributors.

The 14th annual event will take place on

Sunday, June 26 at Red Fedele's Brook House Restaurant at 3590 West Ridge Road.

This year's event inducts 9 individual Rochester adult athletes along with "Leagues of Distinction" -- the Swillburg Women's Softball League (1972-1999) and the Jefferson High School Football Teams (1955-1957).

Individuals to be inducted include Mike Sammartino, John Rabish, Bob Brown, Dr. Dennis K. Murphy, Paul Fauth, Karl C. Kowalski, and Dave Hogan.

Two standout inductees in the 2022 Hall of Fame are Millie Ignizio Martorella and Tom Jarrett Conge said.

Martorella, a former pro bowler, was the first woman on the professional tour to bowl a perfect 300 game. Tom Jarrett played varsity baseball and football and swimming.

"Jarrett was a quarterback at Monroe High School in 1966 when the school was undefeated in the city league," said Conge. "He ended up playing at Omaha University and then at the U of R for one year."

The ARA Board meets 12 or more times a year to discuss who deserves to be inducted in the Hall of Fame.

"I'm the youngest on the board," said Conge, 73. "I'm looking for younger people to help out and be on the committee."

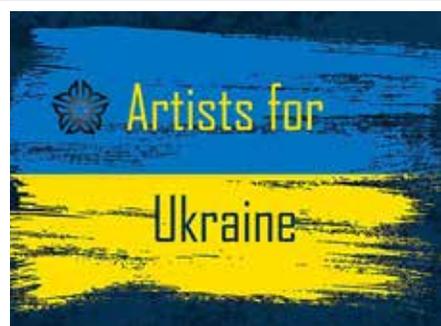
Conge continues the long legacy in promoting the banquet. He still plays senior softball at McAvoy Park in Irondequoit along with others who refuse to sit on the sideline.

"They go by age. There are 60 year and above teams, 70 year and above leagues," Conge said.

Tickets for the Hall of Fame banquet are \$35 for adults, and \$25 for children (12 and under). Along with the dinner and ceremony, the group will raffle off a TV. To attend, send a check payable to Don Stiner, ARA Hall of Fame Committee, 555 Augustine Street, Rochester, NY 14613 or call Bill Conge at 482.2626.



Bill Conge continues to swing batter, batter, batter at Senior Softball at McAvoy Park in Irondequoit (Photos courtesy of Bill Conge)



Artists for Ukraine Fundraiser Call for Art

Artists from the Greater Rochester and Finger Lakes area are invited to donate art to a special event designed to raise money for humanitarian aid and medical supplies for Ukraine.

The art will be displayed and sold during the Artists for Ukraine exhibition at Rochester Contemporary Art Center (RoCo), held from Sept. 2 through 17, 2022.

Artists who wanted to participate in the show should register their Intent to Donate art by May 31 at <https://forms.gle/tDLd89xptbWdkv3HA>

The non-juried show will accept:
• Ready-to-hang 2-D works up to 32" x 32" (frames preferred)
• Freestanding 3-D works up to 16" x 16"

Art will need to be delivered to RoCo, located at 137 East Avenue in downtown Rochester, between noon and 7 pm on Sunday, August 21.

"Ever since the Russian invasion began in February, we've been contacted by artists throughout the community who want to show their support for the courageous people in Ukraine," said Bleu Cease, Executive Director of RoCo. "We're proud to offer them a chance to show their work in a special event that will help provide humanitarian and medical aid to Ukraine."

"More than 11 million Ukrainians have been forced out of their homes, fleeing the advancing Russian army," added Solomia Laba of ROC Maidan, a local nonprofit that has been providing aid and assistance to Ukraine since 2014. "Cities have been destroyed. Thousands of lives have been lost, including children, women, and the elderly."

"As Russian soldiers retreat, they leave evidence of countless atrocities and war crimes," she continued. "It's the greatest humanitarian disaster in Europe since World War II. That's why we all need to do everything we can to help the brave and resilient people of Ukraine."

Artists for Ukraine is being produced in partnership with RoCo, WXXI, and ROC Maidan, with help from other volunteers.

More information can be found on RoCo's website here: <http://www.rochestercontemporary.org/exhibitions/artists-for-ukraine/>

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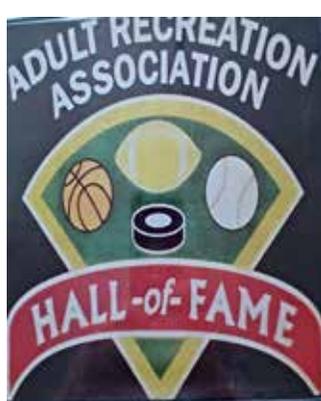
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Home is Where the Heart Is Michele H. Martell

What is home to you? Is it your house, apartment, a workplace, neighborhood, social hangout, garden, place of worship, a beach, dorm or school? Or is it less a place and more a circle of friends, family, hobbies, social media connections? Perhaps it is any place that offers you support and makes you feel happy and content.

The meaning of home can elicit a plethora of implications for each individual. How do you feel about your home? Particularly after our recent shut-downs, home may be a place where people have felt encumbered and are now understandably happy to get away from.

For example, after shutdown lifted, as grateful as I had been to be in my physical home; returning to true friends, optimistic environments – makes me feel like I am home again.

As cliché as it may sound, home is always in your heart. A sense of home is not just my house; it is a feeling I have inside of my soul to be with others with who we reciprocate a sense of home, a place of hugs, sincere feelings, care, silly encounters of enjoyable humor.

Forget about perfection inside a home. What makes you feel tranquil on the inside and outside? Start simply. Cleanliness, music, living plants and sparkly lights can make a home. Providing a space for your children and furbabies and friends where you and they can feel safe and unconditionally loved makes a home. After all, the space you create for a home today can make a difference not just for you, but for generations.

As I look back to all of the homes I've had worldwide - everything from inner-city to suburban to the middle of a forest to a foreign country where bombs were literally going off in nearby streets; from apartments and dorms to duplexes and houses and government housing; in each and every place I created a place of pride and made it my castle and a gathering place. Even when I had to arm myself with keys

between my knuckles and a can of mace to travel safely to and from that home. Home is meant to be a place of pride and positive energy and gratitude. It can become a place of safety, refuge and growth for all who assemble there. Regardless of its earthly size, home is also a place in your mind. It is a place to call your own. And when your home extends outside of your physical house, your home with genuine others, it can be another piece of your life's home as a place to share joy and life experiences.

Your home can purely be where you find yourself content, anywhere, when you are with others whom you love, which includes yourself.

What if your home is filled with abuse, threats, chaos, violence, waiting for the next blow, no sense of belonging and just a day-by-day existence of survival? This type of home is more common than a lot of us realize, and many do not discuss that this is/was their home experience. Sadly, it can be accepted as just the way that it is when you know no different, especially if you are a helpless child or defenseless animal. It can take years to realize that is not the way home is supposed to be, and that this trajectory can be changed.

You can re-create your "home" to be that you wish, even if it takes years of intent and support and decisive action to do it; to cultivate a home that is the opposite of what you experienced for yourself and the future that you may never see, but it can become your legacy.

Many of us have learned to become capable with the virtual world as our home throughout the craziness we've had these past couple years to maintain our livelihoods and social connection. Virtually and physically, home is a place to maintain and to continually house-clean, transmuted negativity to positivity. You make the decision to define your home, a place to call your own, and whom you let inside your home, for your own well-being.

We see Ukrainians who have been leaving their lifetime homes with their

children, animals, and clothing upon their backs, fighting for their lives. It is dreadful to see, and we don't even know the half of it. All they unquestionably want is to be home, in a place of refuge that they've spent their entire lives building. They are now making a home in other countries, just for a place of peace and safety from violent attack. We may find it painful to fathom this type of existence. Yet it is happening. And it is a scary realization that this could happen to any of us.

Perhaps Foo Fighters covered the purpose of home perfectly in their song "Home": "Just looking for shelter, from the cold and the pain

Someone to cover, safe from the rain And all I want is to be home."

God Bless You and Yours and your home, wherever you may make it.



Michele H. Martell (Photo by Sarah Jeruta Salvilla)



The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to join us 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 that 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.



Peonies Weekend held in June at the historic Ellwanger Barry Garden (Photo courtesy of the Landmark Society of Western NY)

Ellwanger Barry Peony Weekend

In June, the Ellwanger Garden opens to visitors for one brief weekend to celebrate the huge peonies that grow in this historic garden on Mt. Hope Avenue. This year's Peony Weekend will be held on June 11-12, 12 p.m. – 3 p.m.

The Landmark Society of Western NY describes the garden in this way: "Ellwanger Garden is a 'living museum.'" Originally the private garden of famed 19th-century horticulturist George Ellwanger, it was cultivated by the Ellwanger family from 1867 to 1982. It is a historic landscape with many plantings originally placed by Mr. Ellwanger and his family. In the garden, you experience the sights and scents that delighted

the Ellwanger family for 115 years."

Due to the narrow paths at the Garden, masks will be required, and social distancing requested. This site is closed for regular visitation except for these special events and for private tours as described below.

The garden can also be viewed by appointment for groups of 6 or more. You can join the Friends of Ellwanger Garden volunteer group and enjoy the garden all season long at our Tuesday evening "weeding parties!" To schedule a group tour or volunteer at the garden, please contact Cindy Boyer, Director of Public Programs, at (585) 546-7029 x12 or by email at cboyer@landmarksociety.org.



Jaslynn is a Registered Nurse and has worked in the Observation Unit for 4 years.

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Central Library's Reopens Secret Room to Children

continued from page 1

Mayor Malik Evans and County Executor Adam Bello recently announced that Central Library's famous, yet hidden, Secret Room reopened on the second floor of the Bausch & Lomb Building. It features a bright play area for children with interactive projections, a starry night sky, and ample place for storytimes.

"The renovated Secret Room will play an even bigger role in getting children excited about learning," said Mayor Evans. "I want to thank KABOOM! and The Ralph Wilson Foundation for their generous donation and commend the library staff for their commitment to keeping the library interesting to children. Bringing more children to the library will advance our efforts to create a safe, equitable and prosperous Rochester."

The renovation was made possible when the library won a \$32,000 grant from the 2020 @KABOOM! Play Everywhere Design Contest courtesy of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. KABOOM!'s grant enabled the Rochester Public Library to transform the space into a more flexible play opportunity for children. "The Children's Center staff have been eagerly awaiting the completion of this iconic space," said Tonia Burton, Children's Services Consultant. "We worked with families in focus groups to find out what children and their



Central Library's Secret Room

adults were looking for and we did everything we could to create a magical space that would offer quiet reading nooks, gaming, movies, art and science programs, and more. Dan Schneiderman from Maker Faire helped to recreate the Rochester night sky. Be sure to stop by and view the stars!" 115 South Avenue, 585. 428.7300.



After 57 Years Highland Park Children's Pavilion to Rise Again

JoAnn Beck

The Highland Park Conservancy is celebrating the approval of the Reconstruction of the Children's Pavilion this year - the bicentennial of the designer of Highland Park, Frederick Law Olmsted and the year of celebration of Monroe County's bicentennial.

On March 8, 2022, the Monroe County Legislature voted to add the Children's Pavilion Project to its Capital Improvement Plan, to finance the cost of its reconstruction and to authorize funding agreements with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the New York State Dormitory Authority and Highland Park Conservancy, Inc.

The project is estimated to cost \$3,130,000. Of that total, New York State will fund \$1,000,000 and over \$1,000,000 will be funded by foundation grants and donations through the Highland Park Conservancy. Construction is expected to start next year for completion in 2024.

Highland Park was the first park in the Rochester Park system, and the Children's Pavilion was the signature element of Olmsted's plan. It was designed by the noted architectural firm Shepley Rutan and Coolidge. Located at the high point of the park, it offered a unique treetop view of the park and a panorama of the countryside. It was a popular gathering spot at the nexus of all the walks and drives. Dedicated in 1890, it was lost to demolition in

1963. At that time, the City of Rochester granted permission for its removal, but on the condition that the County erect a "suitable new structure to fulfill the same purpose as the present Pavilion". (City Council Resolution No. 63-45) The Highland Park Conservancy has been advocating for the reconstruction of the Children's Pavilion for twenty-eight years, since its founding in 1994.

The reconstruction of the Children's Pavilion is important, not only to restore the full range of experiences to park visitors, but also to restore the integrity of Highland Park as a cultural treasure and a masterwork of design. The national celebration of Olmsted 200 has highlighted the immeasurable impact of Frederick Law Olmsted- as the designer of Central Park, the first municipal park; of the Buffalo Parks, the first park system, and of Niagara Reservation, the first state park. He was a prime mover of the Parks Movement and the City Beautiful Movement, not to mention an influential abolitionist, reformer and conservationist. In rising to address the most momentous issues of his day, Olmsted has left a legacy of public green space - common ground- which are works of art for us to experience freely every day.

For more information visit: www.highlandparkconservancy.org and www.Olmsted200.org



Meet Poet Elizabeth Johnston Ambrose

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

MCC English professor and poet Dr. Elizabeth Johnston Ambrose was named winner of Rattle Chapbook Prize for her 39-page chapbook *Imago, Dei*.

In an online interview with Tim Green, the editor of Rattle, she said she began writing when she learned how to "hold a crayon and write song lyrics." Along the way she specialized in 18th century novelists, earned a doctorate in 2005 and wrote essays in the fields of Eighteenth-Century Studies, Gender Studies and Popular Culture. In 2014, she was a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. She also holds a writing-as-therapy group at the Rochester Breast Cancer Coalition, which produced an anthology of writing by survivors of breast cancer which she co-edited (Foothills Press, 2018).

"I didn't have a lot of confidence in my poetry," said Ambrose Johnston, but she continued to write poems. She credits her participation in a local invitation-only writer's collective, Straw Mat Writers, with taking her life-long poetry writing seriously. Her poetry found an audience, and her work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Sun*, *The Weekly Humorist* among other literary publications. She's also been a three-time Pushcart Prize nominee and the author of the chapbook *Wild Things* (Main Street Rag, 2021).

With her most recent book, *Imago, Dei*, Johnston Ambrose returns to her deepest roots. In exploring the power of her evangelical upbringing, her poems soar in language both lyrical and harsh, sacred and profane.

Johnston Ambrose is currently working on her newest poetry. "Red

hair is the rarest hair color, constituting only 1-2% of the world's population," she writes in an email to the WEDGE. "This is why every November 5, thousands of redheads gather to celebrate National Redhead Day...But what does it mean to be a redhead? The poetry collection I'm working on meditates on the redhead as a cultural phenomenon, and, in particular, the redheaded girl/woman as a site of longing, fear, and fantasy."

I have long been fascinated by female icons from literature and popular culture; increasingly, my academic interest in the ways myths about gender and sex are produced, circulated, and cemented has found its way into my poems. And because I am the daughter of two redheads and the eldest of four redheaded siblings, it's no wonder that I have recently found myself drawn to literary and cultural representations of redheaded girls and women. Why does artist Edward Munch imagine Sin as a red haired woman? How was Queen Elizabeth I's power (or imagined monstrosity?) connected to the color of her hair (the Scots referred to her as "the red hag")? One dominant theme becomes clear...the redhead is her own kind of Medusa: a figure that both titillates and terrifies. As is characteristic of so much of my writing, they will be funny and serious and sad and dark and speak to each across space and time.

Imago, Dei can be bought at Rattle's website: <https://www.rattle.com/product/imago-dei/> and *Wild Things* from Main Street Rag <https://mainstreetragbookstore.com/product/wild-things-elizabeth-johnston-ambrose/>

Roc Cinema Opens On May 27

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Local social media is all abuzz with news that one of the oldest movie theaters in the nation—Swilburg's Cinema opened as "The Clinton in 1914"—is reopening with a new look and new menu and a new name. The legendary felines that once roamed the theater are no longer on site, but they are on mugs.

New owner Kristina Dinino-Jeffords renamed and had been spilling small drips of tea on Instagram and Facebook.

Forget schlepping bags of popcorn to your seats. Now servers will bring "craft cocktails and comfort food" to chairs that roll and tables to hold the above-mentioned food and drink all lit by low, moody lights.

Most recently the theater posted that it will offer first run movies Thursday-Sunday and "second run movies and events to bring our community together."

To learn more, visit Roc Cinema on Facebook and Instagram. 957 S. Clinton Avenue, 585.271.1785.



Famous Cinema felines immortalized on mug

Seek-a Kreations Offers Home Decor & Accessories with a Little Bit of Magic

continues from page 1

Sure the Shops on West Ridge may seem like a bit of a drive from the South Wedge, but it's post pandemic so let's get out there.

Keri Tudisco, founder and creator of Seek-a Kreations, opened up her first retail shop within the Shops last June. How to describe Keri's ethos and design aesthetic? It's a tad bit industrial, minimalist, sustainable, fair trade with a hearty dash of fairyland and witchy magic—all very Keri.

She describes a childhood spent roaming the woods behind her house on E. River Road on foot or motorbike (her father, Bill Stymus, was for many years an Enduro racer who rode in off-road agility races). She would ride her motorcycle along the railroad tracks to Scottsville all day.

"We didn't have cell phones or computers. We didn't own the land, but we rode the land," said Keri, laughing.

"I would say I'm more pagan Christian. I believe in Jesus, the universe, Goddess. They all work together. I was always drawn to the earth," she said. "I would be out from sunup to sundown. My prayers were attached to nature, and I found clarity being alone in the woods, near the river. I was always a seeker of something."

She looked for hummingbirds which she used today as her business logo. She even has a tattoo of one on the back of her neck. "They're carefree and mysterious. They don't stop. They fly like 80 mph forward and backward. They're a lot like me."

Before Seek-a Kreations, Keri studied to be a nurse then worked as an accountant and married Anthony Tudisco. Together they raised four children while working together at their business, Advanced Piping.

"I always made gifts for people—arts and crafts. When all the stores shut down during the pandemic, I had to rely on my own. My grandfather was a master carpenter, and he was always fixing or building something."

It was also during the pandemic, when the whole family was home and her life as a "mom, wife, taxi driver [for the kids]," slowed to a halt.

"We were sitting outside under a full moon," said Keri, "and Anthony said, 'You look unhappy.' I said I think I could do something. I really want to do something, and he say 'Let's do it. You supported me all these years. Now it's your turn.'"

Now her shop within the Shops on Ridge brims with home décor, jewelry, candles and balancing rocks, and one of her biggest sellers—ritual crafts.

Keri builds her slim console

tables in her workshop at home, and she often uses found materials or as she says, "Things find me."

"A rental company was expanding, and they were taking down their fence, and I asked them if I could have the wood," said Keri. In another lucky coincidence she learned a friend was getting ready to throw out 500 small glass medical bottles. They now are used for her ritual craft bags, maybe filled with sprigs of lavender or wooden matches.

She "cuts, screws, glues and sands and stains" the wood. Her husband introduced her to *shou-sugi-ban*, a Japanese method of preserving wood through charring it with fire, and she tried it.

The tables vary in size; the largest measures 8'x2'. Some are decorated with decals while others remain bare and minimalist. Sometimes the legs are cast iron, other times they're made of wood. Her signs are whimsical and serious. A big seller spells out the name of an album of a local singer/songwriter she's followed for years, former Voice contestant Amanda Lee Peers. Keri reached out to Peers to ask permission



Seek-a Kreations owner Keri Tudisco (Photo by Anthony Tudisco)

to use "Sinner" and Peers agreed. Other signs are aspirational and intentional—"warrior" and "fearless" and "brave."

Keri's "ritual craft" bags --"Wish and Release" and "Burn and Banish" and Love Spell jars—fly off the shelves.

"Everyone has an intention or a wish," said Keri. "Your home is a living, breathing creative refuge. It keeps you safe."

Ingredients vary depending on the cloth bags' purpose—a candle, an essential oil or herbs, matches, a bowl, paper, pen and instructions. Bay leaves are especially dear to Keri's creations. She's made copies of the legends behind the leaf found in Ovid's *Metamorphoses* where the nymph Daphne is pursued by a very unwanted Apollo. When he catches her, she calls out to her river god father for help, and her escape is to be turned into a bay laurel tree.

"This is probably the first instance of bay

banishing and wish granted," writes Keri.

"The people who come into my shop are seekers, too," Keri said. Or, most of them.

She's keeps finding little red Bibles or pamphlets in her shop or her products flipped over, so its label is hidden.

"If they think [a person's] a witch, should they really be doing these things to her?" asked Keri, laughing.

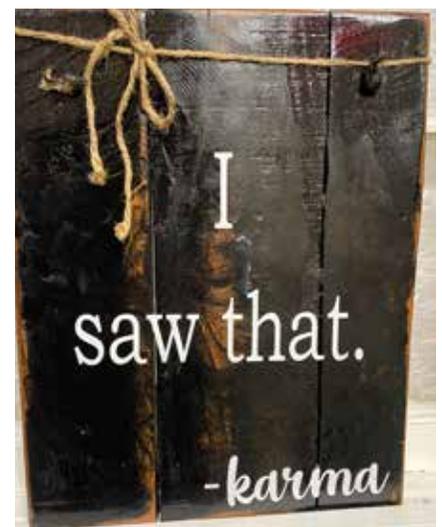
"I'm always thankful. I'm always aware that we are divine together," she said.

The Shops on West Ridge will be holding an outdoor Garden Sale on June 18th. You can find Keri's consoles will be outside under a big tent. Finally, don't miss the amazing Michelle Elizabeth's Roadtique Boutique & Bakery/Cafe on the first floor. (Best grilled cheese sandwich around.)

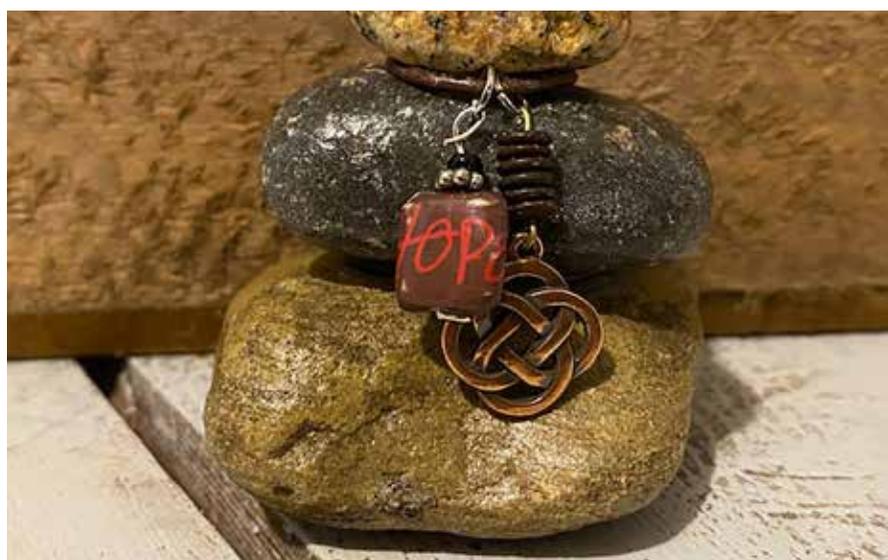
Visit Seek-a Kreation on Facebook and Instagram. Shop hours: Thurs. – Sunday 10-6 p.m., 3200 West Ridge Road, Shop #541, lower level, 585.368.0670.



Ritual craft bags



Tudisco's designs have a touch of dark whimsy



Balancing rocks by Keri Tudisco



Keri Tudisco builds slim consoles using repurposed wood and cast iron or wooden legs. The one above was part of her Halloween designs. To learn more, visit Seek-a Kreations on Facebook or Instagram or visit #541, lower level, at the Shops on West Ridge.

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South Wedge Victory Gardens

continued from page 1



Ken Rich turns the soil in a South Wedge Victory garden bed on Cypress Street. Photo by Jo Cummings

ambitious and welcome goal of doubling the number of community gardens within the city. At a recent spring organizational meeting of the South Wedge Victory Gardens, it was also apparent that these community gardeners don't just show up to grow their own food – they also come for the neighborliness attached to these spaces, something many are seeking in the wake of a long and lonely pandemic.

Although each community gardener tends their own raised bed, they also contribute to the upkeep of the garden site as a whole; from weeding communal raspberry bushes along the fence, to turning the compost where gardeners deposit their kitchen scraps. The gardens are also a place to share knowledge and hone one's gardening skills. For example, the raised bed

belonging to Hamilton Street Garden co-manager, Sharon Turner, is the envy of tomato enthusiasts. In past seasons, her tomato plants have stood nearly six feet tall, bejeweled with large, luscious fruit. Typical of many community gardeners, she's always willing to share her wisdom with fellow tomato-lovers striving to grow perfect produce.

Since each gardener chooses what to grow in their own raised bed, a wide variety of plants are on display each growing season. Some gardeners choose to grow produce that is difficult to find in local grocery stores or farm markets, others grow crops that winter over and are harvested in the spring, like garlic scapes and winter radishes. Still others create beautiful pollinator plots that overflow with borage, bee balm, and echinacea, welcoming bee and butterfly friends to enjoy (and help) all the garden plots. Even for non-gardeners in the community, the garden sites serve as a small oasis for all to take a stroll through, meet their neighbors, and absorb the beauty and vitality of a green, growing outdoor space.

This year, the Hamilton Street Garden site has three new volunteer co-managers from among its returning gardeners: Kathy Lewis (a CCE Master Gardener), Sharon Turner, and me. Together with the Cypress Street co-managers, Jo Cummings and Ken Rich, the group worked to organize returning gardeners for the 2022 growing season and recruit new gardeners to each site. Although all garden plots are nearly filled for this year, the Victory Gardens encourage interested gardeners to fill out an online application to be included in the selection for next year's available plots: www.swpc.org/community-gardens.

New Music Horizons Invite 50+ to Make Music

Nancy O'Donnell Hale



New Horizon chorus. Ann Tippet is second from the left back row.

Eastman-Rochester New Horizons provides musical experiences for adults, beginning and experienced musicians of all levels, no auditions necessary. While the organization was designed for senior adults, there is no minimum or maximum age or ability requirement. Members rehearse, play, sing and perform. The Rochester program (New Horizon is an international organization) includes beginning, intermediate and advanced bands, a Big Band, beginning strings, full and string orchestras, a chorus, and several chamber ensembles.

Former MCC English Professor Ann Tippet, who retired in 2019, began her New Horizon adventure after her husband joined. "I first learned about the group 4 years ago when my 75-year-old husband re-started his love affair with the trumpet and joined the beginner's band," said Tippet. "Three years later he's in 2 more bands and loving life. When I found out they had a chorus, I joined and have been singing with them ever since even during dreaded Zoom rehearsals."

Tippet's next step in New Horizons was to pick up an instrument. "This year I decided to try to learn the clarinet," she said. "New Horizons will

teach anyone with an interest and an instrument. With their encouragement I hope to join the beginning band next year! It's such a wonderful, welcoming organization for those of us who are on our 3rd or 4th chapter of life."

The New Horizons Program in Rochester, NY began in 1991 by Roy Ernst supported by a grant from the National Association of Music Merchants. According to an early brochure that details its history, "The word spread through articles in publications such as the New York Times and a feature spot on NBC Today.

The New Horizons ensembles typically perform many times each year, giving formal concerts and playing in shopping malls, parks, retirement homes, and nursing homes. You may even attend music institutes especially for New Horizons musicians in places like Aspen, Colorado; Lake Placid, New York; Door County, Wisconsin; Sydney, Australia; or Palm Springs, California.

Free concerts are planned throughout June and July in the Rochester area. Visit New Horizons' website at www.rocnewhorizons.org/new-horizons for more information



Artists Dave Paprocki and Erica Bryant

Clean Cuts Art Show Opens at Rohrbach's on June 30

A shared appreciation of the bizarre and a desire to turn trash into treasure unites two artists—Dave "Washboard Dave" Paprocki and Erica "Erica Likes Alligators" Bryant.

The two artists created "Clean Cuts," a traveling art show featuring the washboard assemblages of Paprocki and Bryant's dream collages.

Paprocki's washboard are adorned with various objects, from crayons, to keys, to mousetraps, to pieces of skeletons. Bryant's collages remember scenes from dreams translated through cut up colorful bits of discarded paper.

The artists met in 2021, when Bryant was selling her work at the Artist Row at the Public Market. Dave and his wife stopped at her booth and took a liking to a one collage based on "a dream about stealing a person's wallet, using the money to buy a bottle of whiskey and lying on the bathroom floor in unhappiness."

Paprocki told her about his adorned washboards, and they decided to make a trade—a washboard decorated with eyes for a dream collage based on a dream about Beowulf at the Council Rock Primary School cafetorium.

Both artists, Rochester natives, came at their artistic practice from an odd angle.

An accomplished musician, Dave played drums in bands for decades until he decided that the drum kit was too heavy to haul around. Washboards were much lighter, and the corrugated surface, so good for scrubbing clothes, allowed Dave to strum, scratch and tap out great music. He soon started to decorate his washboards, with items found in flea markets. As audiences appreciated the decor on his board, he realized that he had created a work of art. He has since created many unique, decorative washboards to hang on many walls and recently had a show called "Washboards and Beyond" at the Little Theatre. His washboards often have a theme, like "Ouch" which features an assortment of painful devices like mousetraps, safety

Self portrait by Dave Paprocki



pins and dental tools. "Crayola Creole" is a washboard decorated with a bunch of crayons he found at a barn sale. It includes a drawing done by his son Jess, 40 years ago. There is also a tea strainer holding a multicolored flashing light. "Plug In" is a washboard that features all kinds of electrical components.

"Dave's work is super cool. The serendipity of flea-market finds, combined with his eye for detail and association makes for some really intriguing works of art," said Erica.

Bryant is a former newspaper reporter. When she had to leave her "beloved job at the Democrat and Chronicle" to move to Florida for family reasons, she was unemployed for a while and just started cutting up little pieces of paper to report on happenings in the dream world.

Bryant believes "dreams are a great source of inspiration because the rules of time, space, and logic don't apply."

Her work has been exhibited in galleries in California, Florida and New York, including a recent solo exhibition "40/40 Vision" at Rochester Contemporary Art Center, which featured 40 dream collages that *City Newspaper* art critic Rebecca Rafferty called "strange and engaging." Her piece "Certainty" illustrates a dream that she was swimming in a sea with alligators with human baby heads.

"The very first time I saw Erica Bryant's stunning collage work at the Rochester Public Market "Artist Row" last September, I knew I was seeing something very special," said Dave.

Clean Cuts opens at Rohrbach's Beer Hall, 97 Railroad Street, on June 30, with a musical performance by "PV Nunes Band," which Dave plays from 6-9 p.m. The art show will hang in Rohrbach's' through the end of July. To see more visit, Paprocki's website at www.washboarddave.com and Bryant on Instagram handle @erica_likes_alligators. For more information, call Erica at 585.489.1520 or Paprocki at 585.752.6387.

Erica Bryant Holding her Own Spine - Erica Bryant



"History Detective" Pamela Reese Smith Brings to Life Forgotten Heroes of Reconstruction Era

In a time when some politicians use Critical Race Theory (CRT), a college level law course, to scare grammar school parents and when schools around the country are censoring uncomfortable historical facts about slavery and racism, Pamela Reese Smith's book, *Francis Lewis Cardozo: An Unsung Hero of Reconstruction*, *The Untold Story of the First African American Elected to Statewide Office in United States History 1865-1877*, is here to make a difference.

As Reese Smith writes in describing one of the reasons she wanted to write the book was to "help restore Cardozo to his rightful place in the pantheon of Civil Rights history."

Reese Smith, a Harlem native and graduate of the University of Rochester, worked for many years in human services and as a community organizer, creating programs and initiatives for a wide variety of groups. In 2012, she was awarded the Community Champion Award from the *Rochester Business Journal* for her work in the community. While working for the City of Rochester, she served as Northeast Quadrant Administrator, and as Community Garden Coordinator, she established training, education and supported over 100 urban gardeners throughout the city before she retired in 2021.

"I've been pretty quiet about [the book]," said Reese Smith. "I gave a few talks, one for the August Group, another for the American Association of University Women. I got interviewed by *Minority Reporter*."

Reese Smith, calls herself a "history detective" and says her interest in the lives of black Americans living during Reconstruction grew in part as she began researching her own family's genealogy in the 1990s.



Pamela Reese Smith

"My great, great grandfather Ebenezer Bulow was killed going to vote in South Carolina," said Reese Smith. "I was told this by my elders, and I was going to find evidence."

She began reading about an "upcountry region in South Carolina, called the Promised Land," where her ancestors settled after the Civil War. As she looked for Bulow's story, she discovered the lives of other African Americans who struggled during the tempestuous and dangerous times.

"I ran into six politicians, and Cardozo stuck to me the most. His story broke my heart," she said. "I was like the Energizer Bunny. I visited universities; I talked to scholars and other famous Reconstruction authors like Eric Foner. I've worked hours after hours for 29 years." She travelled to research institutions in New York, Louisiana and South Carolina. In Washington, D.C. she uncovered more about Cardozo's work at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives.

Cardozo is little known outside of the Washington D.C. area (a high school is

named for him there). A more obscure reference can be found in a 1990s TV miniseries, North and South, with actor Billy Dee Williams playing Cardozo.

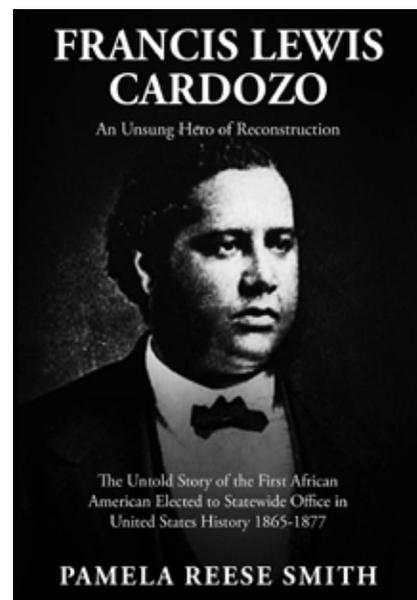
Reese Smith's book brings the notable legislator and educator alive.

Francis Lewis Cardozo was born free to Lydia Williams Weston, a free woman of color and Isaac Nunez Cardozo, a Sephardic Jew who worked in Charleston, SC custom house. Because state law prevented interracial marriage, his parent's marriage was common law.

As a young man Cardozo enrolled in the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and as an ordained Presbyterian minister, he returned to the U.S. and became pastor of a church in Connecticut. He married, and with his wife and children, moved back to South Carolina where Cardozo developed one of the first free secondary schools for Black youth that trained teachers.

Cardozo became the first Black man to hold statewide office in U.S. History when he was elected Secretary of State of South Carolina in 1868. He advocated establishing integrated public schools in the state when the legislature ratified a new constitution it provided for public schools for the first time in the state, and supported them to be integrated. Ten years later, in 1878, Cardozo was appointed to work in the Department of Treasury. During this time, he also taught Latin at Howard University in Washington, D.C. He also reformed the South Carolina Land Commission, which distributed limited amounts of land to former slaves.

Despite his apparent success, when he was elected as state treasurer in 1872, opponents tried unsuccessfully to impeach him in 1874. He was even wrongfully imprisoned for a time. He was ultimately pardoned by the governor of the state and by 1884, Cardozo had



Pamela Reese Smith spent 29 years researching the life of Francis Lewis Cardozo

returned to education as a principal of the Colored Preparatory High School in Washington, DC. where it became a leading school for African Americans.

Pamela Reese Smith's book is available in paperback on Amazon and on Kindle. To contact Reese Smith, visit her website at www.blackreconstructionheroes.com.

New Owner at Boulder Coffee Making New Plans



Nancy O'Donnell Hale

Keith Rose, Boulder's Coffee Café and Lounge's new owner, is enjoying his first business in the South Wedge.

The Columbus, Ohio native has a degree in Hospitality Management, but he worked primarily in senior living sales and marketing in South Carolina and Maryland. When he was offered a chance to move to the Rochester area, he said yes to be closer to his family in Ohio and because his wife Meaghan's roots are in Brockport. Just as he was transitioning to hotel work, COVID happened.

"I always wanted to be in business myself, and during the pandemic I started to look at franchise opportunities," said Rose.

Now as Boulder's new owner he has a number of plans in the works for his new business.

"I wanted to bring in more locally produced and sourced bakeries and distilleries," said Rose. "I want to get involved more with the community and partner with other local businesses and nonprofits. I'm planning to add more live music. I've partnered with Comedy at the Carlson already. I want Boulder to be a community hub and better use of the space."

Book and poetry readings are also getting on the calendar Rose said.

Ljha Wilton opened Boulder Coffee Company in the South Wedge in 2005. While he still owns the building, he sold the café. Rose is the second owner since the original

Rochester Real Beer Expo 2022 Celebrates 10th Anniversary in the South Wedge

The 10th annual Rochester Real Beer Expo will be bigger and better than ever before! Local business owners from the award-winning South Wedge neighborhood have joined forces through the Business Association of the South Wedge Area (BASWA) to bring you a street party with over 120 of the most exciting craft beers currently available with an

additional tent for a bit heavier focus on the best of the regional breweries this year. The event will be held on Saturday June 11th from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM with a pre-event VIP/Preview hour at 5:00 PM. The event will be held on tree-lined Gregory Street in the South Wedge, from Whalin Street to Bond Street. Along with a world-class collection of craft beers we will be serving up ciders and the best

of Rochester's food trucks plus hand rolled cigars. All against the backdrop of Rochester's finest live local musicians. Plus a few surprise twists that will delight and amaze you for our 10th Anniversary!

We love our neighborhood and we love good beer. We will bring to you a beer festival that captures what is exciting in the ever-changing craft beer community. Too often we have found ourselves at beer festivals that simply offer all the same beers commonly available at any event. We aim to shake things up and present you with the type of beer event that we would like to attend. When you go to a tasting event you should hope and expect to have your eyes opened to new experiences, and be comfortable and entertained and enjoy yourself. We can certainly promise you that. Our neighborhood thrives on its creativity and diversity and we will bring you an experience that reflects that. All the proceeds from this event are rolled back into the neighborhood revitalization projects undertaken by BASWA, the Business Association of the South Wedge Area. Projects include public art, community events, improvements to our street lighting and sidewalk furniture, public landscaping and parks maintenance.

For more information please view our event website, which is being updated soon: www.rochesterrealbeer.com. Be sure to buy your tickets today since this event has sold out every year and is sure to do so again this year.



Rolling in the Future--RocCity Skatepark Development Continues

Sara Scott, director of Recreation & Parks Stewardship, City of Rochester

Michael Riordan, president Roc City Skatepark Board of Directors

It was a long ride to get there, but the Roc City Skatepark has been building momentum since it opened a year and a half ago and shows no sign of slowing down. Now the City of Rochester is in the beginning stages of design for Phase II/III of the skatepark. This next phase of construction will complete the build out of the park including the area under the Frederick Douglass-Susan B. Anthony Bridge, and portions of the land extending southward from the bridge and is slated to include more street skate features, a community event space, and possible restroom facilities.

The idea to build a public skatepark for the enjoyment of the community was first introduced to City officials in 2008 by members of the ROC City Skatepark Coalition (now The Friends of Roc City Skatepark). The grand vision became a reality 12 years later on November 5, 2020, when the ribbon was cut on the first phase of the Roc City Skatepark located under the Frederick Douglass- Susan B. Anthony Bridge. This achievement was made possible through the collaborative effort of City officials and community members, and the financial support of several generous donors including New York State, NYSDOT, RG&E, The Sands Family Foundation, The Skatepark Project, and The Friends of the Roc City Skatepark.

The Roc City Skatepark was built to bring a new vitality and sense of energy to Downtown Rochester. The first phase of the Skatepark consisted of mini-ramps and ledges, stairs and handrails, competition bowls and a main skate promenade, along with open space that provides opportunities for public art installations and performances. The park became a welcoming space for all skatepark-related action sport enthusiasts from the most experienced skateboarder, to a beginner BMXer, to an amateur rollerblader looking to sharpen their skills.

city government and citizens lead to the kind of outside of the box thinking that can help raise the quality of life for all of greater Rochester. We are seeing it all over the region now — new and innovative ideas propelling Rochester’s future coming from listening closely to people who want to make our home a more exciting, thriving community.”

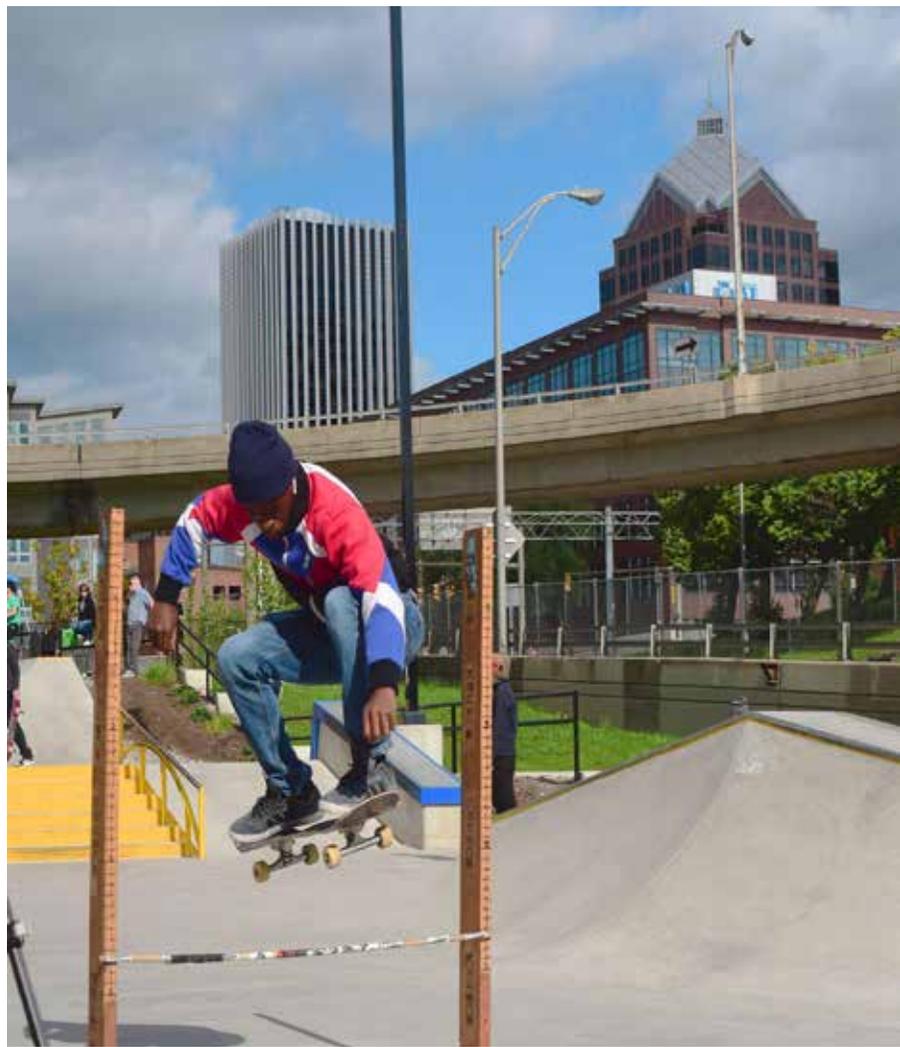
Over the last year and half, continued partnership between the Friends of Roc City Skatepark, the City of Rochester, and local businesses has resulted in a diverse array of community events at the Skatepark including last October’s Stop, Drop & Roll community food drive and skate competition, a collaborative mural project in partnership with Synthesis Collaborative (Wall\Therapy), the Skatepark Jam scheduled for this June, and a ‘Movies with a Downtown View’ event planned for early August.

In addition, the establishment of the Roc City Skatepark has encouraged creative collaborations between long-time skatepark enthusiasts and nascent skateboard related entities.

In early 2022, the Friends of Roc City Skatepark and the City of Rochester partnered with Rochester Rolling Resettlement, a new organization in Rochester utilizing skateboarding as a way to welcome and empower recently settled Afghan refugees. Rochester Rolling Resettlement is modeled off the Skateistan program (www.skateistan.org) and is currently offering skateboarding and education/empowerment workshops to students at Rochester International Academy. The long-term vision for the program is to host community workshops and youth focused programming at the Roc City Skatepark. You can learn more about this initiative, their many partners, and how you can help at <https://www.instagram.com/roccrollingresettlement/>.

Keep an eye on the Friends website <https://roccitypark.org/> for upcoming events at the skatepark and a new series of beginner workshops that will be hosted at locations around the city and check out <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/roccityskatepark/> for updates on the skatepark’s next phases of construction.

Alan Presutti, member of the Friends of Roc City Skatepark, summed it up well: “I am excited that the skatepark has been embraced as a positive addition to the downtown Rochester experience. Concrete successes like this illustrate how collaboration between



Stop, drop and roll event was held at Roc City Skatepark in Oct. 2021
Photos by Dave Raffa, owner of Breaking Free Skatepark



Alan Presutti giving directions at Stop, drop and roll



Skateboards or scooters, all kids have fun at Roc City Skatepark



A historic postcard shows Rochester’s Aqueduct by moonlight



Harry B. Bronson

 New York State Assembly
 136th District

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