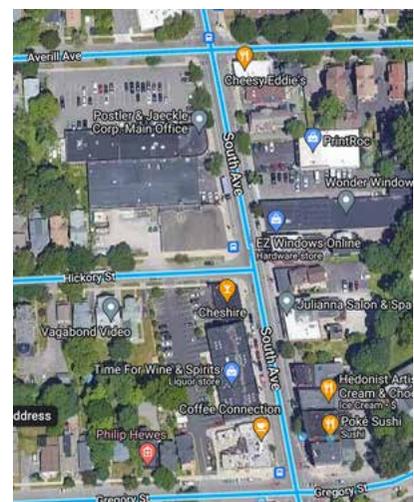


# THE WEDGE

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

## South Wedge Fest Art, Music & Food Festival



South Wedge Fest is held on South Avenue between Averill Ave. and Gregory St.



**FREE**

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### South Wedge Farmers Market Season 2022

Chad Flint, market manager



Summer 's plenty available at weekly South Wedge Farmers Market (Photo - Chad Flint)

- Music**
- Luca Foresta and The ElectroKings
  - Serena Young
  - Steve Grills and the Road Masters
  - Young School of Irish Dance

- Food Vendors**
- Peppapot
  - Tony Tomatoes
  - J&S Fried Dough
  - Rochester Kettle Corn
  - Macarollin'
  - Beer & Wine Tent

- Arts & Crafts**
- Gods n' Gladiators
  - Be Kind Creations
  - Bailey's Wearables
  - Harvest Moon Printing
  - Tool Box Earth
  - and lots more!

**South Wedge Fest**  
**August 20, 2022 -**  
**11 a.m. - 8 p.m.**  
Two Blocks of Fun on South Ave.  
from Averill Avenue to Gregory Street

Come enjoy the uniqueness of the South Wedge Visit local artists, vendors, food trucks and the eclectic business while grooving to a line-up of homegrown bands. And don't miss the South Wedge Pet Parade. Bring your pet or come and enjoy your neighbors' animal companions! Link on South Wedge Fest Facebook page.

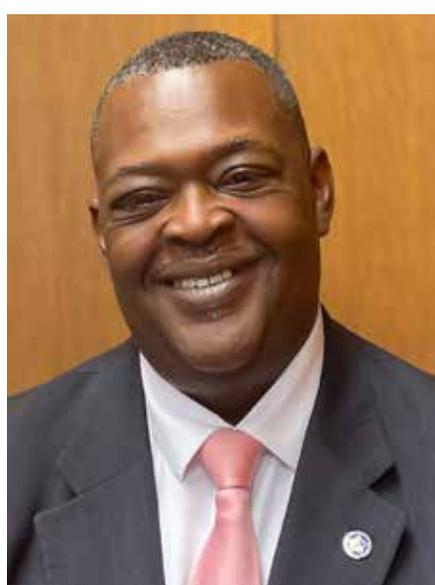


### Meet Victor Saunders, City Special Advisor on Violence Prevention Programs

Glynis Valenti

When Mayor Malik Evans created the position of Special Advisor to the Mayor on Violence Prevention Programs in January, he explained that "We have all the building blocks in our community—a plethora of organizations and agencies working to prevent violence—but coordination is key," and he looked to Victor Saunders.

Saunders, a Rochester native, has worked with high-risk youth at Hillside Children's Center, the City's Pathways to Peace Program, and the Center for Youth. He's interacted with gang members, families, and young people on the edge of making bad decisions.



continues on page 6 Victor Saunders

The South Wedge Market is enjoying a fantastic 2022 season so far with nearly 40 vendors participating throughout the season. The market runs each Thursday from 4 to 7 pm at 357 Gregory Street.

This season Upstart Berry Farm and Backyard Gardens bring great local fruit and produce each week, and customers have been excited about all that both have to offer. If you have not had the chance to see what they bring to their tables each week, stop by soon!

Did you know the market has a raffle every week? All you need to do is stop by the market table, reach into the box, grab a slip of paper, and you have a good chance of winning something from one of the vendors. You can also pick up your \$2 coupon courtesy of Rochester Gas and Electric as well as get your loyalty card punched.

Oh wait, you have not heard about our loyalty program yet. Stop by the market table and pick up your card, there is still enough time to earn enough punches on your card to get coupons that can be used at the market.

The market is excited that Fiddlehead Farm has honey back in stock. The bees have been hard at work for the past few weeks. So, stop by their table and pick up fresh local honey to use in place of any processed sugar in your kitchen.

You can also find micro greens, a wide range of baked goods, fresh baked bread, jam, maple syrup, vegan cheese, herbal tea, skin care products, local art, sweet treats, shaved ice, and so much more at the market each week. Fresh cut flowers make their return to the market beginning on August 11th.

Add to the market line up is a list of talented creatives that will perform at the market through August 25th. A story about Arts in the Market and a list of performers can be found on pg. 3

Finally, don't forget to follow the market on social media (@SouthWedgeFarmersMarket) or on the web (swfm.org) to keep up to date on which vendors will be at the market each week.

continues on page 5

# Opinion

## Sexist Podcast Brings Teachable Moment

Mary Lupien

I had originally thought to write this month on another topic, but recent events compel me to speak out against the attacks on women--on our rights, our bodies and the contents of our minds.

In June, sexually harassing comments were made on the podcast of a Rochester City Council member about his female colleagues just days after the Roe v. as Wade decision was overturned.

In an interview, the Council member was asked: What would you say to your wife or daughter if the same comments were made about them? He responded by saying, "I would tell them not to put themselves in that position." Whether it be getting pregnant, dressing or speaking in a certain way, or running for office, women are often blamed for the "position" they are in.

I never really understood just how much women are hated until I discussed my thoughts and ideas as an elected official. Women should not have to endure being harassed when they stand up to serve their communities, nor when they speak their minds.

In "Tackling Online Abuse and Disinformation Targeting Women in Politics," an article by Lucina Di Meo and Saskia Brechenmacher state "Around the world, women in politics receive an overwhelming amount of online abuse, harassment, and gendered defamation via social media platforms. For example, a recent analysis of the 2020 U.S. congressional races found that female candidates were significantly more likely to receive online abuse than their male counterparts were. On Facebook, female Democrats running for office received ten times more abusive comments than male Democratic candidates."

There was an outcry and pressure from community members to hold those on the podcast accountable. It is important for us to send a message that this type of behavior is not acceptable and has real consequences. However, this type of harassment is not out of the ordinary. It happens almost daily as women go about their life. So, it is also important for us as a society to send the same message to our boys and men who engage in "street harassment" or catcalling.

When I was younger and a man would catcall me, I would take it as a compliment. I grew up with low self-esteem, so the attention felt like flattery.

However, something always felt uncomfortable and as I got older, this feeling grew. I now know that catcalling is not a compliment at



Mary Lupien serves as Vice President of the Rochester City Council and represent the city's East District

all, but a show of dominance and an unspoken threat of violence.

Writer Avondale Kendja in "Catcalling Kills: Defining the Impacts of Street Harassment" illustrates just how dangerous the behavior is. She explains that "Also known as street harassment, catcalling is a form of harassment and open verbal abuse against mostly women and girls. The woman's body is usually the subject of the catcaller's critique.

When catcalling, the perpetrator often likely has the desire to get the woman's attention and degrade her at the same time. Focusing attention on her body as if she is just an object of aesthetic or sexual quality reduces her to a thing of appearance. It then positions her as a tool for the catcaller's self-esteem improvement.

Kendja continues by saying that "catcallers are more likely to believe they aren't doing anything wrong, that it is not a serious offense, or feel as if they have the exclusive and natural right to say whatever they want."

The Council member defended the vile remarks made on his podcast as being "protected First Amendment speech." However, women also have the "exclusive and natural right" to not have to endure sexualizing comments while just walking their dog, riding a bike, waiting for a bus, walking to a store, for basically existing.

It took me a long time to understand how catcalling and degrading comments made me feel, and I'm still struggling with how to respond safely and productively when it happens. One small step towards that is writing this article and speaking up.



Former South Wedge Victory Garden Manager Felton Culbreth has moved his microgreen and salad greens from the Rochester Public Market to the Westside Farmers Market 831 Genesee St. (Tues. 4 pm to 7 p.m. Stop by and say hey! We're looking for Felton to bring some of his greens to the South Wedge Farmers Market on Thursdays (4-7 p.m.) at the Odd Fellows on Gregory Street.



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**Happy Earth Tea , 10% off**  
696 South Avenue

### The WEDGE Newspaper

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**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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### 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.

### SWPC Board Members

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Anthony Sciarabba, treasurer  
Kristina Wood, secretary  
Board members---  
Jeff Carlson, Jr.  
John S. Frank  
Alvin Lomibao  
Robert Marvin

### Honorary Board Members

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).

### August/September Calendar

SWPC Board Wed. 6 p.m.  
August 10, Sept. 21  
For info, email  
flogan@rochester.rr.com

### Community Engagement (Neighbors & Block Clubs)

Wed. 5:30 p.m. Aug. 24, Sept. 28  
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.

**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

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# Arts in the Market

Glynis Valenti



Percussionist Tony Padilla with Prime Time Funk & Mambo Kings

This year South Wedge Farmers Market is pleased to host “Arts in the Market,” a new program featuring local performance artists from Teaching Artists ROC. Each week a different artist will perform in his or her medium: congas, steel drums, storytelling, Brazilian choro music, a Chinese pipa, folk music, and even juggling. Performances take place at 4:30 and 5:30 for about 20 minutes each, and in-between performances artists are available to answer questions about their craft. The goal of the program is to entertain and educate market shoppers through different world culture artistic expressions. This program is made possible through a grant from Rochester Area Community Foundation/New York State Council on the Arts. Teaching Artists ROC, formed in 2017, is an organization

of independent teaching artists and ensembles sharing a common interest in providing meaningful arts learning experiences for students of all ages.



## Happy Birthday Fred!

### Highland Park Conservancy Hosts Olmsted’s Celebrations

Nancy O’Donnell Hale

The National Association for Olmsted Parks in Washington, D.C. describes the famed landscape designer as a lot more: “Architect, author, conservationist, Olmsted tried his hand at various careers: merchant, apprentice seaman, experimental farmer, author and even a gold mine manager. He directed the U.S. Sanitary Commission, forerunner of the American Red Cross, and wrote for The New York Daily Times, exposing the injustice of slavery in the South. And that was all before he completed Central Park and invented landscape architecture!”

The City of Rochester’s website touts that it is only “one of a handful of American cities that have a park system designed by him.

Olmsted was hired by the City's first Parks Commission in 1888. He began with the city’s waterways and” he urged City leaders to concentrate on acquiring land along the Genesee River,

with the goal of preserving its varied scenery from industrial development... He designed what he called an "emerald necklace" of parks and gardens along the Genesee River, from the Erie Canal to Lake Ontario. These include Genesee Valley Park, Highland Park (Rochester’s first public park), Seneca Park, and Maplewood Park.

While Olmsted was born on April 26, 1822, in Hartford, CT. The Highland Park Conservancy kept the celebration going with a birthday bash at Highland Park Bowl on Sunday, August 7, with a performance of "Lungs of the City: Olmsted's Parks in Music" by American Wild Ensemble.

The Conservancy describes the group’s music as “contemporary classical music inspired by Olmsted's parks and philosophy.” In 2016, The Ensemble began in 2016 received a commission in honor of the National Park Centennial.

#### August Arts in the Market

##### 8/4 -- John Dady & Benny Bleu

Two well-known local musicians will entertain with a variety of fun, lively folk & traditional tunes while at the market.

##### 8/11--Tony Padilla

Percussionist with Prime Time Funk & Mambo Kings brings the rhythms of Latin America to the market with his congas.

##### 8/18 --Ted Canning & Panloco

Create the sounds of Trinidad on Steel Drum “pans” for market shoppers

##### 8/25--Almeta Whitis

Storyteller extraordinaire, will introduce market shoppers to far flung countries through the global tales she shares.

#### Highland Park Conservancy Events August 20 @ 9:00 AM

Photo tour with Image City Photographers Register for this free event on Eventbrite

#### September 10 @ 10:00 AM

Landscape Architecture Tour with JoAnn Beck Register for this free event on Eventbrite

**Buy an ad for Oct./ Nov. online issue. Call 256.1740, by September 20ish**



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# Business Buzz

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

**Special Delivery**  
From One Stop to Another on the Underground Railroad  
Rose O'Keefe

**O'Keefe Welcomes 2nd Edition of Underground Railroad Book** - South Wedge history author, blogger and speaker Rose O'Keefe recently announced her book *Special Delivery: From One Stop to Another on the Underground Railroad's* 2nd edition has been expanded to include "a fresh look at daily life on the Underground Railroad in the 1850s." O'Keefe is the author of other historical books including *Frederick and Anna Douglass in Rochester, New York: Their Home was Open to All, Historical Genesee County; Southeast Rochester and Rochester's South Wedge.* Her book *Frederick and Anna Douglass*

in Rochester, was recognized by notable Douglass scholar Celeste-Marie Bernier and Dr. Ka'mal McClarin, executive director of Frederick Douglass National Park in Cedar Hill, Washington, D.C.

**Retail Space Available on South Ave.**-The space that housed the sweetness of Roll'n Yen Café Thai Fried Ice Cream at 684 South Avenue is now available. The family business closed their doors in March.

**BASWANews**

Rose O'Keefe, board member at the Business Association of the South Wedge Area (BASWA), reports on the group's many activities and projects including updating the southwedge.com business directory website and adding new businesses. "We filled the neighborhood with flowers with support from Highland Hospital and the generous volunteers who helped install and continue to help maintain them," writes O'Keefe in an email to the WEDGE. "We continue to maintain the neighborhood greenspaces including Star Alley Park and Nathaniel Square Park, and we've requested help from RPD to step up patrols in the parks to address problems with drug use and vagrants. We've also asked the city for help with graffiti cleanup."

*continues on pg. 5*



The South Wedge Farmers Market also carries delightful Fiddlehead honey and a variety of jams from Sister Dolores Ann's. Photos by Chad Flint



## South Wedge Farmers Market

*continued from page 1*

Interested in helping out with the market as a volunteer? Please contact chadflint33@gmail.com for more information. We are currently planning indoor pop-up events for the fall, winter, and spring and will be releasing more in-

formation (and dates) on those soon! We hope to see everyone at the market as many Thursdays as possible. Thanks for supporting your neighborhood market and all of our local vendors. See you at the Market!

## City Changing Zoning Code

Lisa Reagan

How much do you know about the City of Rochester Zoning Code? Well, the city's code is what keeps the South Wedge Business District looking so cool and funky. It's what helps the neighborhood keep similar 19th Century people-scaled businesses with residences above them rather than a Walmart or Rite Aid. A zoning code is what prevents a 6-story block apartment from being built in the middle of your street full of modest wooden houses. A zoning code keeps certain businesses from opening next to a school or park oriented towards young children.

where you'll find some information and a place to leave comments at RochesterZAP.com. But if you get there, and it seems overwhelming, come to the meeting for music, food and to hear more. Some of the issues neighborhood leaders and the South Wedge Planning Committee are watching carefully is that the understanding we worked under when we supported having the new Neighborhood Mixed Use (NMU) along the South Wedge arterials was that buildings would top out at 4 stories (approx. 40-50 ft.).

All of these positives are up for grabs in the zoning rewrite as the City hopes to increase the Rochester's housing density and make development easier. The devil is in the details, as they say. So if you want to find out how it can impact you, your home, your investment, your business, watch for notice of where a meeting explaining the Zoning Alignment Process (ZAP) will be held on Sunday August 28 from 2-4 pm. You can go to the website set

The current proposal for height is now 55 to 65 ft (5 to 6 stories) next to and bordering modest 3 and 3 1/2 story homes. An example of the impact of this change in height can be seen by the construction of the Gold Street Loft next to a single-family home. A 65-ft structure overshadows bordering houses and can create overflow parking. Design standards appear to be focused solely on the street-facing facade and allow solid walls possibly of concrete block in the rear and sides of NMU buildings that border immediately on modest houses. This standard doesn't take into consideration a building's potential to block sunlight and air circulation and significantly raise the temperature for the 19th century homes without air conditioning behind and next to them. Neighbors who have bought homes near major streets should be protected from unhealthy and unsightly development that create long-term impacts--short-term rentals that displace Rochester residents who need housing and guests taking street parking from residents, allowing rooming houses in residential neighborhoods and apartments installed in garages and barns. If you want to know more - meeting on Sunday August 28, 2-4 p.m. Place TBD.

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**BASWA News**

*continued from pg 4*

BASWA's community events included a "successful sell-out 10th Annual Rochester Real Beer Expo." "We are planning a bigger than ever It's a Wonderful Life Holiday Festival in December," said O'Keefe. The group continues outreach to all of new businesses, presenting them with gift bags and grant info. "We invite new businesses to participate in BASWA activities," O'Keefe added. BASWA announced its 2022 board officers: Chris Jones and Karrie Laughton, co-chairs; Jim Wolff, treasurer, and Tracy Saville, secretary. Current board members are Bob Criddle, John Roth, and Rose O'Keefe.

# The Beauty of Expansiveness

Michele H. Martell

Who else is finding yourself majorly distracted by the responsibilities of this day, how you're feeling, where you need to be, what you need to be doing later today and tomorrow and next week? Yikes, the immediate and the next-to-immediate needs, what has to be done can take us into the Monkey Mind, the chaos of thinking there is never enough time. This mindset can potentially drag us into a place of doubt that maybe no matter what we do, it may never be enough to satisfy the treadmill of life and the expectations that we experience. Especially during these irrational times, it may be tempting to feel that we need to keep doing more to keep some sense of control over our own personal universe.

This was my personal experience recently, and I'm thinking I'm not the only one trying to hang on to positivity these days. As I was asking for some inspiration for a new article, I was driving my children many miles that night to activities after a day of work, and little sleep. I was exhausted from teenage drama while at the same grateful for healthy and active kids, and a plethora of so many other blessings.

During that drive, looking for any way to distract myself from my tiredness, I looked to the sky.

The skies above were expansive. That was the first word that came to mind when I observed the rolling clouds, the sun, close to sunset, as I listened to my music. All of a sudden, it became apparent to me that these moments are fleeting; a reminder that is an expansiveness that is much bigger than these moments, and the bigger picture became clear as day.

Then when I finally took that moment to still my mind, I realized it was the five-year anniversary of my Dad's passing. My thoughts moved on to thinking about how all of our busyness is nothing compared with the expansiveness of time. How our worries are but drops in an ocean of the time. That those who have passed over would maybe love



to view the clouds while driving in a stressed frenzy. Wow. How moments strike us. Mind-blowing and sobering at the same time. So I decided to take that inspiration to write about expansiveness.

What are you worried about today? We all have anxieties, worries, goals, regardless of our age, identification, or status. We don't always talk about it, but we all have these things.

Expansiveness is a bigger picture – what do you want to reflect upon – not just now, but for your own peace, for those who are in your life? What do you wish to impress to make a difference? It doesn't have to be huge. Maybe it is just growing a garden or gaining peace or helping another across the street or teaching your kids some crafts or being kind to animals or helping others smile and maybe bring some sparkle to their day.

Or maybe it is bigger goal such as to stop a cycle of abuse or to help others do some good for a posterity that you may never physically see while you are here; but it will still have an expansive result.

The next evening I sat with my kids, school year done, not going anywhere. I put my phone away, we chatted, ate popcorn, watched movies and later talked about how nice it was to finally have a stress-free evening together. Moments together are expansiveness, a real paradise in the big scheme of things.

My Eastern-European immigrant family fled to the U.S. with not much. The stories of the long trip would keep me in amazement, wondering how in the world did they survive such an undertaking. But my ancestors had an expansiveness mentality, probably looking at the same kind of clouds I did this week; with the hopes that what they were overcoming would benefit the future, and I am grateful for them.

Everything we do is connected. Small things that we don't even realize affect the day-to-day and the future, including our economy. There is a domino effect and there is a much bigger picture. We all get bogged down with the day-to-day tasks, social media, distractions which can make it even more challenging to keep an eye on the bigger, more expansive picture.

Those clouds that day in the middle of an emotionally challenging week called me to look at a bigger picture when really at the moment I just wanted to freak out. That amazing expansive experience reminded me that we are



Michele H. Martell (Photo by Sarah Jeruta Salvilla)

each just finite beings in infinity. It was an epiphany during a stressful time that there is a bigger picture, which provided some beautiful calm to that day.



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

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 -- Pope Pius XII*

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# Victor Saunders

*continued from page 1*

He considers this population—individuals with a high risk of becoming victims or assailants in violent conflicts, especially involving guns—his “specialty.”

In the scope of Rochester’s crime, data shows that most in the southeast are property-related: car break-ins, porch pirates, bicycle or lawnmower thefts. These are unnerving, frustrating, and annoying to residents because they are violations of one’s personal space. But residents and businesses citywide are even more concerned and fearful about what they read in the headlines: homicides, car jackings, drive-by shootings. However, a recent statistic indicates that nearly 100 percent of Rochester’s violent crime occurs in approximately 11 percent of the city.

Saunders confirms that statistic. The 11 percent is not in the South Wedge or the southeast, and he stresses that more than 80 percent of these incidents happen between parties who know each other and are involved in some sort of conflict.

Rochester is not alone in rising violent crime but is on par with many other cities its size in the United States. He adds that the Mayor’s Office is in contact with those other cities discussing crime issues and how to utilize best practices to bring about change now.

In his position as special advisor, Saunders is tasked with a number of projects: internalizing and centralizing all City violence prevention programs under one umbrella (Pathways to Peace, Office of Neighborhood Safety, and the Advance Peace—Peacemaker Fellowship Program;) partnering with anti-violence organizations in Rochester and Monroe County; and supporting new enrichment and employment programs. For instance, this summer his office was able to fund Transfer VR at the libraries, which is a hands-on, virtual simulation-based training program that teaches building trade skills, a tool that Saunders believes will offer people the opportunity for a better quality of life.

The new Summer Enrichment Program is teaching other skills to youth like de-escalation and conflict resolution; entrepreneurship; and creative pursuits like writing, drama, and clothing and sneaker design. There is also an equine therapy program and Destined 4 Greatness, a program that uses Hip Hop music as a base for social-emotional learning. Saunders notes that the summer program added 150 students, 12 to 18 years old, through reallocated funding. The program takes youth off the street and teach them buildable, usable skills and introduce them to new positive experiences. It also gives students a stipend for participating. There is no overnight solution, though.

Regarding daily issues Rochester faces, Saunders says he and the core City programs have weekly meetings. The City programs work with each other and partner with community agencies to plan and streamline all of the necessary processes to give clients a “soft hand-off” re-entry to the community at-large. Long-term, the goal for Saunders’ office is to decrease gun violence and decrease the homicide rate. In the short term, the programs’ goals are to engage the public in crime and violence prevention education and efforts, which will build up the number of households on blocks involved in these efforts, and in turn will build up neighborhoods.

“Whatever the barriers are to moving forward,” Saunders says, “we want to remove those barriers.”

Those barriers include Rochester’s long-standing poverty, made worse when businesses like Kodak downsized, relocated, or closed. Saunders believes in increasing opportunities for training and employment for real jobs that “lift

people up and put them on a path to a career.” The enrichment programs are beginning to set youth on that path.

Additionally, he explains, Rochester has gotten away from what really works: intervention. Effective programs already in place were shelved just as more firearms became available and accessible to young people. He believes the absence of these programs is one of the causes of today’s youth violence.

The one development in the past 20 years that has driven higher crime is social media, according to Saunders. A nationwide problem, social media escalates situations faster and expands a simple conflict between two children to igniting whole families into action. He notes that recent generations have suffered trauma from adversity at home, school, and online, identifying some of these young people as “victimized and depressed.”

“They end up screaming out through the barrel of a gun,” says Saunders. “A lot of young men and women have lost their lives over Instagram. We need to deal with the trauma, and the hurt so they don’t hurt others.”

In addition to the renewed investment in intervention and practical enrichment programs, Saunders describes how Rochester is addressing the issues

in the immediate future. These include Pathways for Peace increasing its staff case workers from 11 to 16, more programs to target high-violence, high-risk neighborhoods, a dispute monitoring team revamping their dispute monitoring map to gauge and decrease the risk of conflict, and more training in de-escalation.

So, what can citizens do from their own neighborhoods to help alleviate some of the fear or concern? Saunders suggests it can be as simple as pulling a lawn chair into the driveway and getting to know the people walking by. Saying hi and being neighborly can create bonds. He adds that the community is full of “super-talented natural helpers” who have knowledge, connections, and abilities to help people in need.

“Recognize the fact that we understand the narrative is controlled by the media,” Saunders says. “Don’t be afraid of our children. For every one negative young person in the headlines, there are 10 doing positive things, and they are out in the community, too.”

# South Wedge Victory Gardens share the glories of the season



Jo Cummings shares farmer Hannah’s beautiful purple cabbages grown in South Wedge Victory Garden on Cypress Street



Jo Cumming’s prized black tomatoes



Tomatoes gone wild in the Cypress Street Victory Garden (Photo by Jo Cummings)

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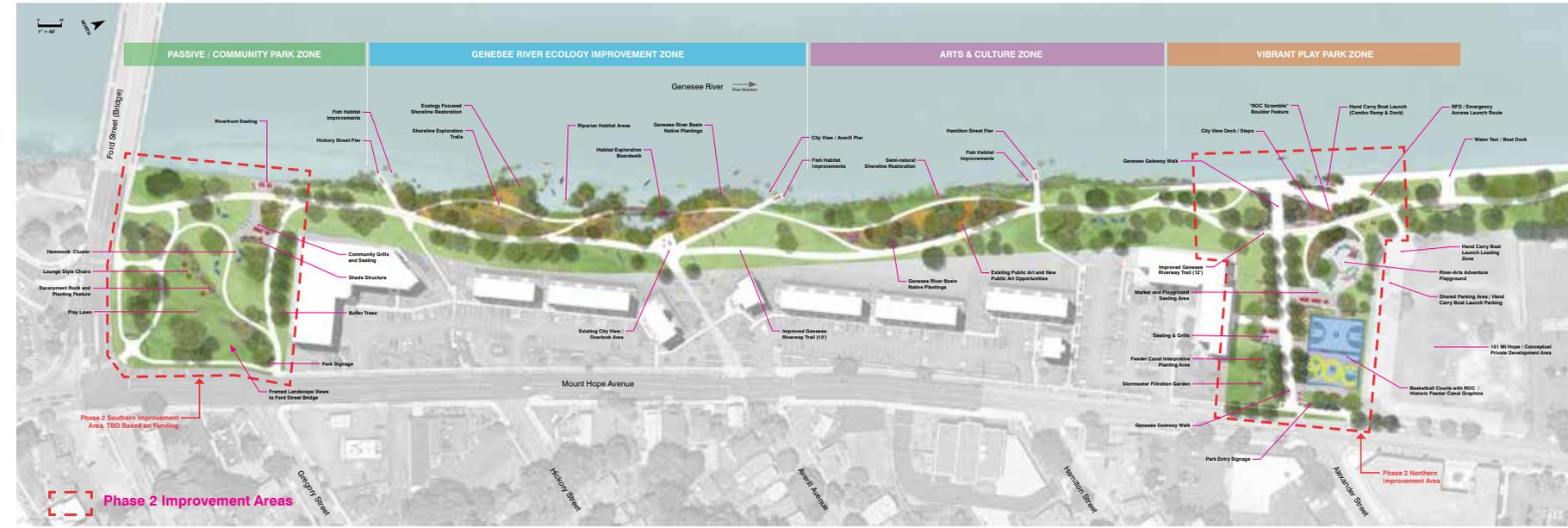


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# A long Term Plan for Erie Harbor Envisioned

Glynis Valenti



## Updated Master Plan - Sketch level Erie Harbor Enhancements Phase 2 (Genesee Gateway Park)



Phase II of the Erie Harbor Enhancements Project began in June with the leveling of Genesee Gateway Park next to The Hamilton, an apartment building on the west side of Mount Hope Avenue. Crews removed planters and concrete pillars, the basketball court and playground.

The new playground will be bigger and more inclusive to abilities and ages. Two basketball courts will be built near Mount Hope Ave. rather than next to the river trail. At the river's edge, a sloping boat launch will be constructed to allow hand-held boats like

canoes and kayaks to access the river. This boat launch will also serve as an area for first responders to place their equipment afloat during water emergencies. To access the launch, crews will build a new access road and parking area on the south side of 151 Mount Hope, adja-

cent to Genesee Gateway Park. Ramsey Constructors, who built the westside river trail on Exchange St. from Ford St. to S. Plymouth Ave., was awarded this contract. Construction of the new Erie Harbor enhancements is expected to be completed by Spring 2023.

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## Community Get-Together

Meet some neighbors  
Have some refreshments  
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**2 to 4 pm**  
**at Calvary St. Andrews**  
**68 Ashland St./corner of Averill Ave.**

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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.

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