

The WEDGE

August/September 2023 Vol. 45 No. 4

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

South Wedge Fest 2023!

***** A FREE EVENT CELEBRATING THE SOUTH WEDGE *****

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH
SOUTH AVENUE

BETWEEN GREGORY ST. & AVERILL AVE

11 AM - 6 PM

2023
SOUTH WEDGE
ART+MUSIC+FOOD
FEST

◆ ARTISTS MAKERS AND VENDORS ◆

PET PARADE ◆ FOOD ◆ MUSIC

◆ FAMILY FRIENDLY ◆

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South Wedge Fest Pet Parade begins at 10:15 a.m. at Marie Daley Park on Ashland Street

Jayne Morgan



Pet Parade 2022



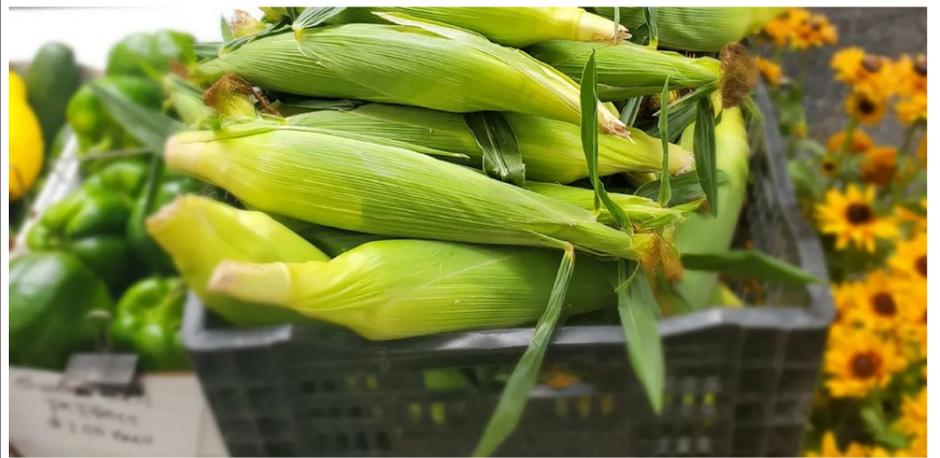
Happy dog - photo by Jeff Carlson

Join the fun on August 19th, when the South Wedge Fest will once again sponsor a Pet Parade. Bring your four-legged, two-legged, winged, slithering, crawling, hopping or all of the above animal companion to Marie Daley Park, 10:15 a.m. at 140 Ashland Street (between Gregory St. and Averill Ave.

The parade moves from the Park down

Gregory Street to the South Wedge Festival's Main Stage on South Ave. to kick off the event.

This is the day when you can show off your favorite member or members of your family and participate in a raffle for pet supplies donated by Pet Supplies Plus on Monroe Ave.



South Wedge Farmers Market Celebrates a Rich Summer Season

Chad Flint, market manager

The 18th season of the South Wedge Market is underway, and we would love to welcome even more customers on Thursday nights! The market runs every Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. at 357 Gregory Street with 15 to 20 vendors each night through September 14th. The market needs your support!

Come out, check out all the great products that our vendors bring and take a few things home with you.

Porter Farms and Backyard Gardens are keeping the market stocked with fresh locally grown produce and fruit along with Eggs 'n Honey Homestead who comes to the market every other week. You can find honey, maple syrup, jams, baked goods, crafts and so much more at the market each week. Hungry from all your shopping? You can grab a fresh slice of pizza (or whole pizza) for dinner from Freddie's Wood Fired Pizza.

Did you know that the South Wedge Market participates in the SNAP program--customers get a \$2 coupon that they can use with every \$2 of SNAP benefits that they spend at the market doubling their spending power. Just stop by our Market Table, at the entrance, and use your card to pur-

chase SNAP tokens and coupons to use with any vendor. All customers can get one \$2 Booster Buck every week at the same Market Table to use on any food product at the market. RG&E's sponsorship of the market makes the Booster Buck possible.

Each week the market brings live music for you to enjoy while you shop from all of our great vendors who serve our South Wedge neighborhood each week.

If you haven't visited the Market yet, you'll find that it is a great place to see some of your neighbors, chat with members of the community and support some great local businesses.

This year's market sponsors include Highland Hospital, RG&E, Hedonist, CRISP Rochester restaurant, Canandaigua National Bank, and Genesee Co-Op Federal Credit Union.

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. If you are interested in volunteering at the market—we can always use the help---, please contact chadflint33@gmail.com for more information.

South Wedge Fest Volunteers Welcome!

"Greeters" are needed to welcome patrons, check IDs, and encourage donations in support of the South Wedge Planning Committee on the day of the festival. We also need help with the Pet Parade. All volunteers will receive a South Wedge Fest t-shirt and a ticket for a free beverage. Contact Jayne Morgan, jsmorgan56@gmail.com if you can help.

FREE

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Thanks to Our Sponsors--Abundance Co-op, Goodwill of the Finger Lakes, Pet Supplies Plus, Posey Letterpress, First Student, Community Preservation Corporation, Veterans Outreach Center, Inc., UR Highland Hospital, Hedonist Artisan Chocolates, Episcopal Senior Life Communities, Ryan Plumbing & Heating

“There was Blanche Calloway and There was Wonder Woman.”

Mike Henry



Artist Stacey Mrva’s elegant statue immortalizing singer and bandleader Blanche Calloway reaches for the sky in Otto Henderberg Park in Swillburg. Photo by Bob Palmer

Swillburg Shout Out!

The Swillburg Neighborhood Association (SNA) was glad to have a beautiful sunny day on June 17th as we unveiled the latest sculpture in southeast Rochester! With Mayor Evans assisting, an estimated 200 neighbors and friends applauded the historic unveiling of a statue dedicated to Jazz singer, band leader, composer and political activist Blanche Calloway at Otto Henderberg Park on Fountain St. Blanche, who as a child resided in a house once on the park site, is celebrated and beautifully memorialized there through a wonderful piece of art by sculptor Stacey Mrva. The statue now adds to the historical richness of the park as it stands near a memorial to her famous brother, Cal Calloway.

One of the highlights of the event was a presentation by Blanche’s nephew, Peter Brooks, who read a vignette of accolades written by his ninety-six-year-old mother, Camay, about her sister, Blanche - hence, the title of this column. Peter expressed the Calloway family’s great appreciation for this recognition. Another significant tribute to Blanche was made by SNA committee member, Bridget Wales, who pointed out the great obstacles Blanche surmounted as a woman and African American, and “who was performing and leading bands at a time when women were not supposed to know that they owned themselves.”

This significant celebration was the culmination of four years of discussion and



Artist Stacey Mrva, Stonemason Mike Santini and Blanche Calloway - Photo by Judy Hay



Richards House ribbon cutting. Left to right: Dr. Shirley Green, John Pellito, Nick Stefanovich, Alec Andrest, Stephanie Beikirch, Laura Heltz, Tom Richards, Dana Greenberg, Joseph Robach, Bruce Tucker and Ellen Adams - photo by Nate Mundt

Veterans Outreach Center Celebrates a New, Improved Richards House on South Ave.

Grace Tursi

Veterans Outreach Center cut the ribbon on Thursday, June 1 on the newly renovated Richards House, a homeless shelter for veterans and a staple in the South Wedge neighborhood for over 20 years.

Reflective of the center’s mission to improve the quality of life for veterans and their families, the shelter now offers 54 beds to serve a greater portion of the homeless veteran population in the community.

As VOC celebrates its 50th Anniversary, Executive Director and U.S. Army veteran Laura Heltz reflected on the completion of this significant accomplishment.

“VOC has served as an anchor of support and hope in the veteran community for 50 years. We’re so grateful to everyone who has helped us make our dream a reality to renovate and expand the Richards House,” said Heltz.

“Our veterans took a solemn oath to defend the Constitution of the United States,” Heltz added. “Sadly, too many have paid the price for their readiness to stand in harm’s way, and they’ve dealt with tremendous challenges after service. It’s our responsibility as Americans to ensure they have a safe, secure and restful place to call home when they need it.

The new Richards House provides exactly that, and we couldn’t be more proud of the new home we have to offer our vets!”

One critical enhancement to the shelter is the installation of a three-story elevator, designed with limited mobility veterans in mind. The elevator will enable easy access to all areas of the shelter, ensuring that veterans of all physical abilities can move around comfortably.

The increased capacity of the shelter have expanded the laundry space, and extra bathrooms have been added to accommodate the growing number of residents.

According to the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, upwards of 33,000 veterans experienced homelessness in 2022.

Ongoing efforts are being made to decrease that number, with organizations like Veterans Outreach Center playing a key role by providing the veteran community with the support they need and the benefits they have earned.

For more information on the services provided by Veterans Outreach Center, please visit www.veteransoutreachcenter.org or contact 585.546.1081.

planning on the part of the SNA Steering Committee. Judy Hay, committee chairperson, gave a comprehensive review of the planning and thanked the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester and E.S.L., agencies that helped fund this project with significant grants, as well as many individuals who lent hours to make this event happen. These include Mike Evans of the South East Area Coalition as well as Sara Scott, Director of Programs and Park Stewardship at the City of Rochester for their important roles, and Josh Jacobs, SNA committee member who provided his expertise in publicity and marketing. Of course, Judy also recognized each member of the SNA committee.

Mayor Evans was warmly received and graciously emphasized the importance of “collective work and responsibility... it’s not me it’s we, we cannot do this alone, and it takes a collection of people to be able to do this.”

The Mayor was all the more delighted to note that our dedication took place on Juneteenth.

The event was made all the more festive with live music provided by Uptown Jazz, delicious chicken and ribs by Bubby’s Barbeque, dessert cookies from Shayla J’S Dessert and Bistro. Plus, there were lots of activities and games for children provided through a special donation from Aria Strat-

continues on pg. 4

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It's time to #Rescue Recess

William Rivera-Bloodworth



Healthi Kids wants to “Rescue Recess” in the Rochester City School District through the efforts of our Rescue Recess workgroup consisting of parent leaders, youth, educators, and staff. We are pleased to share that significant progress has been made over the last year:

First, we successfully advocated for a district wellness policy that all kids, including those with special needs or disabilities, should have daily physical activity. The Department of PE and Health is currently working with the Special Education Department to create an adapted PE Plan that will bring that piece of the policy to life. Our work-group’s advocacy efforts have led to recess being added back into the master schedule for RCSD’s elementary schools for the 2023-2024 school year. We believe this will have a significant impact on the physical and mental well-being of our students.

You may be wondering: Why did we decide to focus on recess?

Education research indicates that recess and active play have a vital role in children’s social, cognitive, physical development and health. Put simply: Play is how children learn and grow.

Through play children learn important social skills, such as cooperation and communication, and recess provides an opportunity for children to engage in play with their peers. Studies have shown that children who have regular recess have better social skills and are more likely to have positive relationships with their peers than children who do not have recess.

Recess also plays a role in cognitive (brain) development and provides a break from the structured classroom environment, allowing children to recharge and refocus when they return to the classroom. Studies have shown that children who have regular recess are better able to pay attention and perform better academically than children who do not have recess. Additionally, recess provides an opportunity for children to explore and learn about their physical environment, which can help to develop their cognitive skills.

Physical development is one of the most obvious benefits of recess. Children need regular physical activity to maintain good health, and recess provides an opportunity for them to engage in physical activity

during the school day. Studies have shown that children who have regular recess are more physically fit and have lower rates of obesity than children who do not have recess. Additionally, regular physical activity can improve children’s overall health, including reducing their risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

And the students and families we spoke to in our community all agree: recess is their #1 priority for playful learning.

Unfortunately, recess and play opportunities differ greatly from school to school and neighborhood to neighborhood. Though RCSD policy now requires daily recess and prohibits removing recess as punishment, our parent/resident leaders report that not all schools or classrooms follow this policy. And beyond the classroom, it is not a given for all students in our community that they have safe places to play outside of school. In fact, just 25% of families we surveyed within the city limits of Rochester believed their students had great places to play in their neighborhood, compared to 65% of suburban families in Monroe County.

So, when students don’t have daily recess, they may not be playing—i.e., how they learn best—at all. This in turn leads to a wider achievement gap between the haves and the have-nots and developmental harm. In other words, recess is also a social justice and equity issue.

One student leader we spoke with said it best: “Kids need to have recess. A lot of kids, if you don’t turn in your homework, you don’t get recess. But that’s not fair. When you take away recess, you’re taking away our education.”

As the teachers and administrators of the RCSD continue to look for ways to improve student achievement, it is important to remember the importance of recess and to make sure that all children have access to daily recess.

That is why the Healthi Kids Coalition is

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Learning is Year Round at Nativity Academy

School’s not out for summer at Nativity Preparatory Academy on Whalin Street in the South Wedge. The Academy is a Catholic middle school serving Rochester youth of all faiths in Grades 5–8 with graduate support through college and into their career lives. The tuition-free school is fully funded through the generosity of local donors and the school is co-sponsored by McQuaid Jesuit and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester.

All Nativity Academy students, grades 5-8, have the opportunity to enjoy a full-on summer immersion program aimed at strengthening their academics and leadership skills. Academics are also combined with a variety of field trips and a two-night stay at Camp Asbury in Silver Lake. The Summer Academic and Leadership Pro-

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The WEDGE Newspaper

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The WEDGE Newspaper is published by the South Wedge Planning Committee, a non profit community development organization. Its mission is to provide accurate coverage of community news and local places and people. Printed bimonthly (Feb., June, August, Oct. and Dec.), The WEDGE reaches a wide readership. Originally a print publication of 5,000+ issues, it went online in Spring 2020 at www.swpc.org, posting to multiple outlets, listservs and social media. It resumed print publication in July 2023 with Penny Lane Printing & Publication in Avon, NY and continues online. 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.

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For 41 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.

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Join SWPC in Community Building

The South Wedge Planning Committee (SWPC) invites you to help us make a difference in southeast Rochester by joining our board of directors or serving on a committee. Founded in 1978, SWPC, works as a conduit for federal or state repair grants that help keep people in their aging homes. It builds community through the 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 commitment can help us to continue SWPC’s work. If interested, please call 256-1740, ext. or e-mail gvalenti@swpc.org or board chair Frank Logan at flogan@rochester.rr.com.

South Wedge Planning Committee Meetings

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

Aug./Sept. Calendar

SWPC Board Wed. 6 p.m.
Aug. 16, Sept. 20
For info, email
flogan@rochester.rr.com

Community Engagement (Neighbors & Block Clubs)

Wed. 5:30 p.m. Aug. 23, Sept. 27
gvalenti@swpc.org

Collaboration Brings Needed Eye Care to South Clinton Avenue

Zachary Laird



Optician Kelly Knight provides care at the Flaum Institute satellite clinic in the South Wedge

Improving access to care in underserved neighborhoods is a goal that many health organizations aspire to. When it comes to eyes, it is something that the University of Rochester Flaum Eye Institute and Goodwill Vision Enterprises take especially seriously. In working to meet this goal, the organizations forged a recent alliance in February with the aim to expand low-vision services throughout the region while establishing a new clinic dedicated to providing access to the city's most vulnerable, for whom getting high-quality vision care can be a struggle.

The Flaum Eye Institute South Clinton Ave. satellite clinic, located in the heart of downtown Rochester, provides needed health care for those who live in Rochester's "health care desert." Since the start of the collaboration, the site has welcomed more than 1000 patients. Here three ophthalmologists and four optometrists see patients, augmenting Goodwill's former low-vision clinic while adding new services sorely needed by City residents.

At the center, doctors see patients for routine eye exams as well as address a number of issues, including cataracts, pink eye, eye injuries, pediatric eye disease, and diabetic eye disease. In addition to medical services available, there is a full-service optical shop with affordably priced eyewear suitable for all ages. Patients can also receive help here to establish insurance, and the location participates in the University of Rochester's safety net program, which offers sliding scale fees for the uninsured and underinsured.

The 5,300-square-foot facility has the necessary space to ensure quality patient care. This includes six exam rooms, state-of-the-art diagnostics, and an optical shop.

As a result of the collaboration, Flaum Eye Institute doctors have reduced previous delays from six to four weeks for patients seeking low-vision care. Future goals include adding more staff to lower these wait times even more. The new full-service eye care clinic also includes urgent eye care appointments for patients who need to be seen within 48 hours.

The addition of the location to the Flaum Eye network opens the doors to City residents struggling to receive routine and specialized eye care closer to home. Situated on three major RTS bus routes, most Rochester residents can get to appointments without relying on a car. For those who do drive, there is accessible free parking.

The aim of Flaum is to have quality eye care available to all community members, regardless of race or income. Data shows that conditions like glaucoma and cataracts are more likely to affect vulnerable populations. Without treatment, these conditions pose a serious threat to patients' eyesight and quality of life.

The collaboration extends the reach and social network of Flaum according to Dr. Christine Coward, medical director of the South Clinton office.

"It's great to have relationships with so many organizations to help reach City residents as we try to make South Clinton the first place that people think of for

eye care in the area," Coward says. "With the range of services available, it can be a one-stop access point for community members who need to receive care."

In addition to being a hub for those who traditionally have not had access to comprehensive eye care, the effort between Flaum and Goodwill also focuses on providing services to those from throughout the region who suffer from low vision.

Someone suffering from low vision has impaired vision that cannot be fixed through surgery, glasses or medication. It can be caused by a range of conditions, which affect daily activities like reading, viewing a screen, or recognizing faces.

A patient is considered to have low vision if their best-seeing eye has a visual acuity of 20/200 or worse. Diseases that cause low vision are often irreversible and commonly include age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, and severe diabetic retinopathy.

To receive low vision care at the center, a patient is first identified through Goodwill Vision Enterprises (formerly Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired). A Flaum Eye Institute optometrist will then perform a specialized exam on the patient. Results are sent back to Goodwill to help their low vision rehabilitation specialists identify solutions and strategies best suited to each patient. These might include things like adaptive technology to help with daily tasks or cane training for mobility. Both Flaum and Goodwill work with the doctor who originally referred the patient to coordinate care. This ensures that each patient maintains what vision they have while learning to better navigate through life.

Flaum Eye optometrist Jennifer Krech, a low vision specialist who provided services at Goodwill prior to the collaboration, emphasizes that the effort between the two organizations helps to better serve low vision patients. It accomplishes this through synergies related to each other's core strengths in medicine and vision rehabilitation.

"With both Flaum and Goodwill together, we can see more patients, bring more care to those who need low vision services, and help them maintain their independence, which is very meaningful," says Krech.

Appointments for the low-vision clinic can be made by calling 585-232-1111, and appointments for the comprehensive eye care center can be made at 585-273-3937. 500 South Clinton Avenue. Hours of operation: M-F, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the optical shop open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Groove Juice Swing Moves to Gregory St.



Groove Juice Swing brings dance, music, classes and all that jazz to Gregory Street. For years, they danced the night away at Weider Hall's. Now they're in their very own air conditioned venue a block away.

The dance company, established in 2004, specializes in Lindy Hop, swing dance steps from the 1920s and 1930s. It offers dance classes, weekly social dances, live band dance events, performances and dance workshops throughout the year.

The grand opening dance was held on July 22 with pianist and bandleader Gordon Webster who has played around the world. Also appearing was Paul Cosentino of Boilermaker Jazz Band fame on reeds, and Rochester native Gretta Cavatassi as vocalist.

Parking is available alongside the building, the public lot around the corner on South Ave, or on nearby streets. 295 Gregory St., parking on side or on street. groovejuiceswing.com.

Blanche Calloway

cont'd from pg. 2

egies on South Clinton Avenue. The Monroe Fire Department also brought over their truck to delight the children.

Of course, we had a large tent vending Swillburg swag. The entire event exemplified the Spirit of Swillburg, a community of collaboration, since its salvation from disappearing for the 490-expressway construction in 1975. The responsibilities and pleasures of community participation are greatly evident in and of themselves.

Check out the neighborhood website if you wish to get involved! <https://swillburg.com/>

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Nativity Academy

cont'd from pg. 3

gram is available to all of student body, which numbers around 60 students in grades 5-8 for school year 2023. During the summer program, students engage in hands-on activities in the classroom in small groups for core subjects of English Language Arts and Math. They also have breaks for recess and outdoor activities and social emotional learning activities.

The focus is on keeping students engaged in learning and positive experiences with their peers and teachers as well as catching students up from the pandemic slide and preventing the summer learning slide. For more information, visit www.nativity-rochester.org.

South Wedge Writer's New Book Looks at Frederick Douglass' Wider Circle



Rose O'Keefe is celebrating the publication of her sixth book *All Rights for All: Working for Justice*. The South Wedge writer's first books focused on local communities--Rochester's South Wedge, Southeast Rochester and Historic Genesee Country. In 2013, she turned to famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass in *Frederick and Anna Douglass in Rochester, New York: Their Home Was Open to All*. Most recently in 2022, she published *Special Delivery: From One Stop to Another on the Underground Railroad*. During the pandemic, I had time to

look into the greater abolitionist circle, the fascinating people who moved in and around the Douglass family circle."

"While facts about Douglass have long been shared, details about social reformers of his time are less widely known."

O'Keefe said her view of American society changed dramatically after living in France as a child.

"I went to a French Catholic girls' school for four years," said O'Keefe. "My father was born in London, and my grandparents were English. They became citizens but kept their British outlook on life which didn't match my mother's Irish Catholic views, and we had generational and culture clashes around our dinner table. As a girl I saw how countries and grown-ups believed their version was right. That confusion led me to want to make sense of things and I wondered what it was like for Frederick and Anna Douglass' children when they sat around the dinner table in Rochester in the 1850s."

Both eBook version at IngramSpark and the PoD paperback of *All Rights for All: Working for Justice* will be available in August.

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Stuart's Spices Mexican Street Corn

Merriya Valleri



Corn becomes Mexican street corn with Stuarts' Spices

Everyone knows corn on the cob is delicious and perfect for the summer months, but have you tried corn ribs yet? We didn't think much of them at first because it sounded like too much work, except the end result was a totally new and fun food experience! A customer suggested we give elote (Mexican street corn) style a chance, and it was phenomenal. The creamy toppings mixed perfectly with the zesty lime and sweet corn. We can't wait to try them again, especially with different blends and toppings!

Ingredients

- 4 ears of corn, shucked and washed
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 4 teaspoons Stuart's Spices Chipotle Lime
- 1-2 tablespoons Stuart's Spices Taco Seasoning
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 lime, cut into wedges
- Suggested toppings: Cotija cheese, fresh cilantro, lime juice

Cooking tip: Before beginning, we highly recommend steaming your corn for a few minutes to soften up the core as it can be extremely difficult to cut through

1. Preheat oven to 400° F, or get your air fryer cleaned and plugged in.
2. Quarter the ears of corn lengthwise, cutting them into smaller pieces if you're using a smaller air fryer.
3. In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise, sour cream, Taco Seasoning, and juice from 1-2 lime wedges to create your finishing crema, set aside.
4. Butter the corn quarters evenly, and sprinkle Chipotle Lime across them evenly.
5. Roast or air fry at 400 for 8-10 minutes, flip, and then put back in for another 5-6 minutes or until corn kernels are crispy and cores are curved.
6. Coat each piece in the crema, add your favorite toppings, and enjoy!



RoCo Art Exhibit Asks "Who Will Be Next?"

RoCo (Rochester Contemporary Art Center) invites the community to honor victims of guns violence through the work of Schwenksville, PA, social practice artists Martin Krafft and Elena Makansi.

The event on First Friday, August 4, 6-7 pm will be held outdoors at RoCo and is presented in collaboration with Rise Up Rochester. During the program victim's names will be read aloud and accompanied by memories and reflections as part of a gun violence memorial.

These memorial/vigils are an ongoing component of the public art installation project, "Who Will Be Next?" installed outside RoCo through December.

"Who Will Be Next?" evolved over six years since its inception in Tucson, AZ, and now invites gun violence survivors from across the country to contribute images of their loved ones. These images are meticulously traced during acts of ritual mourning, offering a poignant visual representation of their experiences.

By centering the stories and voices of those affected by all types of gun violence, Krafft and Makansi aim to foster empathy and awareness within the community.

Inside RoCo, visitors have the opportunity to participate actively in the project by tracing photographs submitted by gun violence survivors. This act of communal creation invites individuals to engage with the project's themes and contribute to the ongoing dialogue around gun violence. Visitors are encouraged to share their images by emailing them to director@martinkrafft.com.

"Who Will Be Next" continues until Nov. 15 at RoCo, 137 East Avenue.

For more information visit <https://www.rochestercontemporary.org/exhibitions/who-will-be-next/> or contact Bleu Cease at bleu@rochestercontemporary.org / 585-461-2222.



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Business Buzz

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

River Street Sandwich Makers Opens on South

Tommie Cranker's love affair with sandwiches began when he was a little boy. "I loved to build huge honking sandwiches," he said. "I would take three pieces of bread, bologna, mayo, and I'd look for new stuff to add. I didn't always know. Sometimes the sandwiches would be happy accidents."

Cranker brings this love for "the simple prep, the artistry" of building sandwiches to River Street Sandwich Makers, the South Avenue cafe he co-owns with Adam Hamilton who runs his own restaurant, Poke Sushi, right next door.

Cranker, Hamilton and River Street chef Jeremy Samuels all met while working at the Ox & Stone Restaurant on Alexander Street.

"That's why I also loved building tacos. They're perfect vehicles, just one convenient package to eat," said Cranker.

River Street Sandwich Makers faced several delays before finally opening on July 19.

"All we did for five months was cook and eat, cook and eat," Cranker said, laughing. "Even now when I make a sandwich, I envision a guest eating it because I know how good it tastes."

His personal favorite today is the pastrami and egg breakfast sandwich that combines a scrambled egg with pastrami, Swiss cheese and tarragon Dijon mustard.

All that eating resulted in a menu that lists some 45 sandwiches along with sides (French fries, mac, slaw and fruit cups) and



River Street Sandwiches historic neighborhood maps have a special place. Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale

salads. A cooler across the room contains Jarritos, Mexican fruit-flavored soft drinks that are made without high fructose corn syrup or artificial sweeteners. Flavors include Mandarin, Pineapple and Lime. Fizz sodas include distinctive flavors like 1922 Ginger ale and "retro grape" Pee Wee, Primo Espresso soda, water and juice.

The sandwich mecca once held a NYC-esque deli several years ago. Today the minimalist interior has calm green WALLS and

continues on pg. 11

Karrie Laughton says "Paper Straws Don't Have to Suck!"



Karrie Laughton has gone through a lot of straws in her life as owner of Rochester's favorite Dive Bar, Lux Lounge, and none of them benefited the environment. On the contrary, single use plastic straws do no good.

Laughton credits a horrifying video she saw to make her determined to find an alternative.

In a Rochester First interview, she tells the story: "I saw the video of the turtle with a straw up its nose in 2018 and I was devastated and was like I'm part of this problem, part of the plastic straw problem. I switched to paper and that took me down a rabbit hole of trying to find a great straw and I couldn't, so I decided to make my own."

In 2018, Laughton began her work in earnest to find non-toxic, 100% food grade, biodegradable, gluten and plastic-free eco-friendly single use drinking straws that didn't wilt during use. She learned the way to get all that she wanted was to do the manufacturing, and so her company was born. Today even the packaging she uses to send her product out into the world is made from recyclable products and can be recycled.

Now two years later, Roc Paper Straws, the company she co-owns with her mother, Kathryn Laughton, is "the company-wide supplier of paper straws for Wegmans stores and restaurants." According to an article in the D&C, "Roc Paper Straws is one of only a handful of paper straw manufacturers in the United States, and the only one in the Northeast.

920 Exchange St. 585.355.4441



Evenlight Bookends undulate at Happy Earth Tea. Each one costs \$300.

Happy Earth Tea Adds 3-D Glass to Inventory

Happy Earth Tea on South Avenues seems to bloom with new wonderful products every month. (See the limited issued iced every pink "Barbie" drink.)

On a side table, owner Niraj Lama has added 3-D glass work by Evenline, a Rochester-based company that works in collaboration with Rochester Institute of Technology.

The group is manufacturing a "first of its kind 3D printing."

"They're developing some processing technique that will use lunar soil when the US starts building a base on the moon," said Lama.

Now for sale at the tea shop are two décor pieces—a round Evenline glass plate (\$120) and a graceful sculptural loop (\$365), Evenline bookends (\$300 ea.). 696 South Ave. www.happyearthtea.com



Evenline glass - Photo by Nancy O'Donnell Hale



Students from Anna Murray Douglass School #12 were invited to conduct science projects on Riverie's inaugural launch.

School #12 Students Discover River Joy on Riverie Boat Launch

Nancy O'Donnell Hale

On a warm overcast June 6, students from South Wedge's Anna Murray-Douglass Academy (School #12) were lucky sailors/scientists on the inaugural launch of the Riverie. They joined Mayor Malik Evans, Patrick Russell-Walsh, executive director of Corn Hill Waterfront and Navigation Foundation, and other notables in celebrating Rochester's newest boat.

Mayor Evens, who grew up in the South Wedge, boarded the vessel with the students as they sailed up the Genesee and later christened it with a bottle of bubbly.

When the Riverie—its name combines River and Erie Canal—returned to Cornhill Landing several School #12 students spoke to the gathered crowd.

School #12 Principal Kathleen "Katie" Trepanier was thrilled that her students could take part in the event.

"Today, our students got an up close and personal look at what makes Rochester, Rochester, the mighty Genesee River, and forever instilling pride in our awesome city," said Trepanier.

In a later e-mail, Trepanier listed the supporters who made the special day happen. "Mr. Dave Beck, Mrs. Lisa Wing, Ms. Kaeti Stoss, Corn Hill Navigation, RIT and Saint John Fisher University were the main community supporters to make this happen for over 500 5th grade scholars across RCSD," said Trepanier. "School #12 was chosen to take the maiden voyage with School #12 alumnus Mayor Malik Evans and his team! We were very grateful for this incredible learning opportunity for our scholars that included science and immense pride in our Rochester community." The children learned about water quality and aquatic ecology and the ef-

fects of pollution and other human activities on the Genesee River. They conducted three different science experiments that focused on the biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of water.

After the boat ride 5th Grade Scholars-Shawn White-McCall, Rabina Chhetri and Gemini Santiago—gave speeches in honor of the day.

One student was especially captivated by otters in the Genesee. Their existence may come as a surprise to the assembled listeners, but Principal Trepanier confirmed their presence.

"We do have otters again thanks to improved water quality," said Trepanier in an email to the WEDGE. "Hopefully the next generation of water protectors led by School #12 scholars will keep the population thriving."

The June event also welcomed visitors to the Corn Hill Waterfront Center, a renovated 2,200 square foot facility at Corn Hill Landing. According to the Center, "[the new facility] features a river view patio and houses Corn Hill Navigation's headquarters and ticket office, the Harbormaster, visitor information, educational displays on the Erie Canal and Genesee River, and amenities for boaters, including restrooms and showers." The Center plans to host a broad range of educational and community programming, meetings, and business and social events. Boater docking facilities include over 900 feet of dockage along the sea wall with an average water depth of four to six feet, water and electric hookups, and sewage pump-out. The overnight fee is \$5. The pump-out fee is \$5. The Harbormaster's office will be open serving boaters start-

continues on pg. 10



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Bing Bang Boom Can Be More Than Fireworks

Michele H. Martell



As I write this article, it is the Fourth of July, and I've been enjoying a peaceful stay-cation these past several days with my son and rescue dogs. Peaceful, that is, with the daily exception for the past 2 weeks or so, of Bing Bang Boom! Day and night, folks prepare to celebrate our nation's Independence Day with a wide array of thunderous noises and bright lights. Within a few hours, I expect the grand finale to commence, with a night filled with excitement and smokey air.

By the time this piece is published, a new school year will be starting, and the Fourth of July will already be a distant memory. We'll be off to a new season with anticipation of new adventures ahead. It will then be a new chapter of a different kind of Bing Bang Boom!

I got to thinking about what exactly is the purpose of fireworks?

Some folks find them exhilarating, as the beautiful sparkling lights are most definitely sensational. Others view them as annoying, or a safety risk, or a trigger for violent memories. In the case of animals and wildlife, fireworks can be terrifying, and it's a time when the shelters sadly become filled with animals who've frighteningly fled the scene.

One way or another, fireworks get people excited – enthusiastic about our nation's freedom, thrilled about a U.S. holiday, or just plain elated to have an opportunity to celebrate and party with a day off from work. Personally, I can do without fireworks, but I can appreciate the concept of getting jazzed-up and motivated for something momentous.

After the 6:15 am wakeup call of more fireworks on July 5th and a few waning firecrackers throughout the rest of the week, the fanfare ebbs. Suddenly my neighborhood becomes quiet, which I'm sure is a welcome respite to my dogs, nature and neighbors.

People are going back to their day-to-day, the exhilaration has dwindled. But, what if we could have our own personal Bing Bang Boom! of "fireworks" each day?

Wouldn't it be fantastic if something gets us enthused in our own personal way for the events that are upcoming that day, that week, that month and year?

So, what gets you jazzed-up for what's coming up next?

Most days, life can seem routine, but it doesn't have to be. After all, just waking up each day and having the ability to be mobile and sharp-minded is a party in itself even when it doesn't feel like it. Face it, a lot of days we just don't feel like moving. But we can find our own ways of having our personal fireworks to get us stimulated.

What gets you worked-up and roused for the day? If you can't think of anything, there are things you can do that can help you feel that way - in addition to caffeine if you're a coffee-drinker.

I find that having a purposeful intent each day helps to get that daily party started. Starting the day off with a focused-goal mindset is one way to kick-off our own life-firecrackers for the day. What is it that you wish to accomplish that day, whose lives you'd like to influence, how you'd like to improve your own life? Sure, events happen throughout the day that can be distracting and disrupting; it's a matter of still keeping the eye on the ball. And one way to maintain that focus is through prayer and meditation early in the day.

Exercising to some good music or an insightful podcast is another way to keep those rockets firing throughout the day. It may sound counterintuitive, but especially on the days that I know will be particularly long, I make a concerted effort to exercise early, as it keeps my mind and body flowing more productively for a longer period of time. Exercise not only gets the blood pumping, but it clears out any leftover mental cobwebs from the prior day and helps provide clarity. And the resulting endorphins lead to additional energy, which can add more fulfillment to the day.

So, start the day asking yourself what gets you jazzed, firework-worthy?!! What makes you feel encouraged to keep a Bing Bam Boom! in your daily life? What is the end-result of what you wish for your day?

I will honor in this piece the memory of my rescue dog Gabby, who passed suddenly. Every day in Gabby's almost 14 years was a firework, even in old age. She is an inspiration of someone who maintained a skyrocket-level of living, enjoying life to the fullest.

Bing Bang Boom! Let freedom ring in the U.S.A. And may we each continue to delight in and value our freedoms, appreciating those who made those freedoms possible, every day.



Michele H. Martell

Sometimes older adults need extra help handling their finances.

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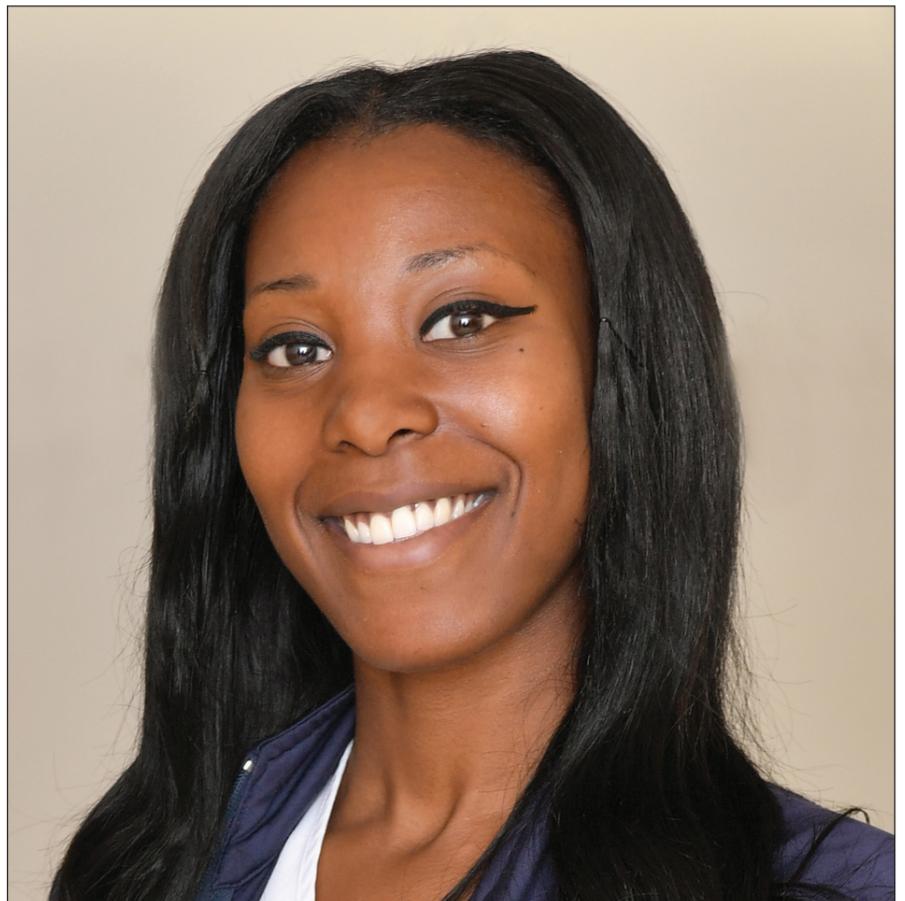
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Opinion

Southeast Councilmembers Speak Out

Urgent Need for Funding to Halt the Youth Violence Crisis in Rochester

Mary Lupien

The prevalence of youth crime and violence in our community is an alarming crisis that demands our attention and immediate action. The suffering of those in our community is unbearable. Families have been impacted by violence both inside and outside the home. Car thefts prevent our residents from getting to work and trap people in their homes for fear of getting hit by an out-of-control vehicle. Rochester is reaching its breaking point.

To effectively combat this issue, it is imperative that the City of Rochester and our community and governmental partners implement a comprehensive and collaborative approach. We must flood the community with resources and invest urgently in evidence-based strategies that address underlying issues that lead to youth crime and violence.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has put together evidence-based strategies that are effective in preventing youth crime and violence. These interventions include implementing and enforcing policies to reduce access to firearms, early intervention, promoting safe and supportive home and school environments, addressing substance abuse, and enhancing youths' conflict resolution skills. Funding and implementing these CDC-recommended interventions are critical in addressing the underlying factors that contribute to youth crime and violence. By taking a holistic approach and addressing these root causes, we can create a safer environment for our youth to grow and thrive.

The following recommended strategies have shown to be the most impactful in preventing youth crime and violence as well as helping those who've gone down a destructive path to choose a more successful one.

1. **The Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)** is a critically important program that provides support to first-time, low-income mothers during pregnancy and early childhood. Through regular home visits from registered nurses, the NFP offers guidance on prenatal care, parenting skills, and child development. By investing in the NFP, we can address one of the root causes of youth violence—early childhood adversity and trauma. The NFP empowers parents with knowledge and skills, reducing household stress and emotional turmoil. As a result, children grow up in healthier, more nurturing environments, significantly lowering the likelihood of them becoming involved in violent behaviors later in life. By breaking the intergenerational cycle of violence, the NFP can have a lasting positive impact on families and communities.

2. **Youth programming** plays a vital role in offering young individuals constructive and positive outlets for their energies and talents. These programs encompass a diverse range of activities: sports, arts, academic enrichment and community service initiatives. By providing safe and supportive spaces for young people to explore their interests and passions, youth programming effectively diverts their attention away from negative influences that may lead to violence. Engaging in meaningful activities fosters a sense of belonging and self-esteem, contributing to the development of strong and responsible individuals who are less likely to engage in violent behaviors.

3. **After-school programs** have proven to be instrumental in providing additional learning opportunities and support to young people beyond regular school hours. These programs offer academic assistance,



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

skill-building workshops and extracurricular activities. One of the critical benefits of after-school programs is that they keep children occupied during the peak unsupervised hours, which are often associated with an increased risk of involvement in delinquent activities. Moreover, these programs identify and provide early intervention for students who may be struggling academically or emotionally. They promote students' overall well-being and reduce the likelihood of violent behavior.

4. **Work Experience and Training:** Youth unemployment and lack of economic prospects are significant risk factors for youth violence. Investing in work experience and training programs is paramount to equip young individuals with valuable skills and prepare them for the job market. Gainful employment not only provides financial stability but also instills a sense of purpose and responsibility. Youth who are given access to job opportunities are more likely to engage in positive behaviors and less likely to resort to violence as a means of coping with their circumstances. By investing in these programs, we empower our youth to become productive and law-abiding citizens, thereby breaking the vicious cycle of violence.

5. **Mentoring programs** play a crucial role in providing young individuals with positive adult role models who offer guidance, support, and encouragement. These nurturing relationships provide a safe space for young people to discuss their challenges and aspirations, fostering emotional intelligence and resilience. A strong mentorship bond can significantly reduce the likelihood of young individuals engaging in violent behaviors by providing them with the necessary support and tools to navigate through life's difficulties. As a result, mentoring initiatives create strong and interconnected communities that actively contribute to preventing youth violence.

The crisis of youth violence requires immediate action and targeted investments in these evidence-based strategies. The Nurse Family Partnership, youth programming, after-school programs, work experience and training, mentoring, and other interventions recommended by the CDC are critical components of a comprehensive approach to tackle this issue.

By investing in these strategies, we address the root causes of youth violence and empower young individuals with the necessary skills and support to lead fulfilling and violence-free lives.

The City of Rochester and our other community and governmental partners must urgently allocate resources to fund these initiatives. It is not only a moral imperative but also a wise investment in the well-being and future success of our youth and society as a whole. Together, we can build a safer and more equitable world for generations to come.

South District Updates - Fight Crime and Report it

LaShay Harris

Last month was the June Primary and thanks to the support of South district voters, I am successfully advancing to the general election in November.

I have heard from many of you asking for solutions regarding the surge of crime in our city.

As your Council representative, I have been your advocate with the Rochester Police Department and City Administration to keep our city safe despite some judicial rules that often allow repeat offenders to stay on the streets and continue to commit crimes. I will not stop working to prevent violence and crime in Rochester.

In June, Mayor Malik Evans and I launched the "Report it" App as a tool for citizens to anonymously provide tips on non-emergency crime-related activities.



LaShay Harris represents the city's South District. She serves as chair of the Council's Recreation & Human Services Committee and works on the Neighborhood & Business Development and Public Safety Committee.

non-emergency criminal activity to the City.

The Report It application uses proprietary technology that offers full confidence that your information will be delivered to the City while no identifying data will appear and your data from your device will not be collected or saved. Users can also establish anonymous accounts to receive messages after they report.

To get access to the anonymous reporting system from your mobile device, text "Rochester" to 63975 to start an anonymous report of a crime and/or tip. To download the app, text "Report it" to 63975.

Important dates for this summer

On Saturday, July 22, 2023, I will be at the Public Market between 10:30-11:30am outside between the Market Office and the Enclosed "B" Shed. This is an informal opportunity for me, as your council member, to meet, reach out to my constituents, promote the public market, and answer any questions you may have and provide beneficial City resources, information and/or events. Hope to see you there!

On Tuesday, July 25, 2023 at 4 p.m., I will be hosting a meeting via Zoom to plan ahead for potential 2024 Lilac Festival parking concerns. Anyone interested in joining the meeting can call 585-317-4601 to register. The goal of this meeting is to come up with possible parking solutions for residents impacted by the traffic during the Lilac Festival.

Stay Safe. Stay Healthy.



Say Something When You See Something.

The non-emergency crime-tips you provide will be reviewed Monday through Friday during business hours. Crime-tip categories include suspicious person or activity, guns and weapons, theft or burglary, fugitive information, and information about a previous crime. Users can also provide photos.

The City entered into a partnership with Report It Anonymous Reporting System, a free smartphone and internet application that provides users the ability to report



Working with you to make our community the best possible!

bronsonh@nyassembly.gov

@HarryBBronson



Members of Rochester's Homeless Outreach Team head out to connect homeless citizens with needed housing, shelter, employment, basic needs, treatment programs and other services in a new collaborative program. (Photo courtesy of Gabriel Person)

City Launches Homeless Outreach Team

Glynis Valenti

Rochester has just over 800 homeless citizens. One-hundred of them primarily live on the streets instead of staying in shelters. Captain Gabriel Person, Community Affairs Commanding Officer for the Rochester Police Department, estimates that 75 to 80 percent of this population also suffers from mental health issues.

The goal of Rochester's new Homeless Outreach Team is to contact the unhoused and help as many as possible.

Prior to October 2022 several local outreach programs worked with the homeless, but they were "silo-ed"—acting for the most part, individually, with multiple agencies duplicating contact. The agencies were also growing more concerned with safety for their staff in the field and for their homeless clients. That is when Capt. Person researched other outreach methods and found a best practices model called the Homeless Outreach Team in Wichita, Kansas.

Wichita Police instituted a collaborative method of working with the homeless, gathering agencies that had outreach programs in the field dealing with the same clients. Working together, they developed comprehensive plans for each client addressing the relevant issues which can be implemented for homeless

clients faster and more efficiently without duplication of services or contacts.

In October 2022 Capt. Person and Lt. Michael Cotsworth, RPD/Genesee Section, assembled a similar team that included: member organizations from housing, shelters, mental health and substance abuse; Monroe County's Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) and the City's People in Crisis (PIC) team; clergy, peer support, and law enforcement.

Today, members meet each Wednesday to discuss possible locations and incident hot spots around the city. Because of time constraints, most locations are referrals from the police, Neighborhood Service Centers, 211, 311, and the City's "Report It" app which allows users to report non-emergency criminal activity anonymously.

Members reconvene on Thursday mornings and board a bus donated by RTS to drop two teams at the week's designated city locations and downtown. Teams usually include 16 to 18 workers in mental health, FIT, peer support and substance abuse and four to five RPD Community Affairs officers trained in crisis intervention.

Capt. Person explains that officers stay on the sidelines as one or two other team

continues on pg.10

South Wedge Victory Garden Manager Wins Award for "Blocks in Bloom" Initiative

Nancy O'Donnell Hale



Master Gardener Kathy Lewis

Kathy Lewis, South Wedge Victory Garden manager on Hamilton Street, recently received recognition for "Blocks in Bloom," a gardening initiative she designed as Master Gardener at the Cornell Cooperative Extension. In June, Blocks in Bloom was awarded the David Gibby International Search for Excellence Award in the category of Innovative Projects at the International Master Gardener Conference in Overland Park, Kansas.

"Blocks in Bloom has truly been a community-wide partnership with so many partners and volunteers participating," said Lewis. "This is a win for our community. We are thrilled to receive it."

WHEC TV highlighted the story of the group's selection "as the number one winner in the category of innovative project for its Blocks in Bloom initiative."

The program was started by Master Gardener and Blocks in Bloom Team Leader Lewis was "designed to bring communities together by beautifying their blocks."

In the filmed interview, Lewis described the program that helped "lower resource neighborhoods to develop front yard gardens." Since the program's inception in 2014, more than 90 blocks and 900 households have beautified Rochester's streets.

In building the program, Lewis worked with teams of people who live on the block, taught gardening skills (mulching and composting, information on the growth of annual and perennial flowers) and at the same time developed "the strength of the community on that block," she said.

The Blocks in Bloom initiative was carried out by volunteers using all donated materials. The strategy was to get one resident to become a Block captain who helped find six households to participate. Each street would plot a garden and plant flowers donated by the city of Rochester and other gardeners.

"What first started as building the community one garden and block at a time, evolved into one community at a time," Lewis said.

The Cornell Cooperative describes The David Gibby International Search for Excellence Awards, named in honor of the founder of the Extension Master Gardener program, as recognition for "exemplary group projects that show significant learning by the Master Gardeners or the public."

St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center Receives \$2.7 Million Grant for Repairs & Outreach Van



St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center has served the community for three decades.

At a July 2 press conference, Monroe County Executive Adam Bello and Congressman Joe Morelle announced a \$2.7 million grant for Joseph's Neighborhood Center on South Avenue. The grant will enable the healthcare center to make infrastructure improvements (repair the 30-year-old roof, fix water damage, make the second floor more accessible, and upgrade computers and teleconferencing equipment). It also allows for the purchase of a van for mobile healthcare delivery to areas identified as "marked by high rates of poverty, health disparities, and crime, and where access to mental health services is limited."

The grant is part of the County Executive's "Bring Monroe Back" initiative that invests federal American Rescue Plan Act dollars to address critical community needs.

The Center was established in 1993 as a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Over the years it has provided primary and specialty care, mental health counseling, support services, and referrals to uninsured and underinsured individuals and families. The Center's staff numbers 20 while some 250 volunteers also provide services. Over the course of its 30-year history, the St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center has served around 37,000 patients in more than 226,000 provider visits.

Infrastructure work is scheduled to begin this year and expected to be completed by 2026.

417 South Avenue, 585.325.5260. Hrs: Mon. 9 am-5 pm, Tues.-Thurs. 9 a.m.- 7 p.m., Fri. 9 am-4 pm.

Hipocampo Children's Book Store Signs on as 2024 Eclipse Ambassador

Henry Padron, co-owner of Hipocampo Children's Book Store, has signed on as Eclipse Ambassador in Rochester Museum & Science Center Community Eclipse Ambassador Program in anticipation of the total eclipse on April 8, 2024.

"This event will bring thousands of people to Rochester," said Padron.

On that day the moon will begin to cover the sun at 2:07 pm and the event will last 73 mins. Total cover begins at 3:20 pm and will last 3 minutes 38 seconds (plus or minus a few seconds)

In a solar eclipse, the moon gets between the Sun and Earth. In a total solar eclipse, people who are in the path of totality see the Sun's bright disk totally covered by the Moon for a short time.

RMSC writes that "this will be one of the most important celestial events for sky watchers around the world, and Rochester, NY, will be in the path of totality for 3 minutes 38 seconds!"

RMSC Community Eclipse Ambassadors are being trained in "eclipse education, basic astronomy, and eclipse viewing safety.

Eclipse Ambassadors will be outfitted with equipment including a telescope with



"The Great American Eclipse in 2017 brought millions of people to the path of totality from around the globe: eclipse-chasers, astronomy fans, and science-loving families alike. The communal experience was a memory of a lifetime for those who experienced the total solar eclipse." - RMSC

a solar viewing filter, educational materials, solar viewing glasses, and materials for activities. Each organization will receive a \$1,000 stipend for participation."

Using a safe solar viewing method, we will see more and more of the Sun covered by the Moon over the next 73 minutes. This time is called a partial phase because the Sun is partially covered by the Moon.

Rochester's last total solar eclipse occurred on January 24, 1925.



Eclipse Map from <https://nationaleclipse.com>

City of Rochester Homeless Outreach Team

cont'd from pg. 10

members introduce the team and engage the homeless. In fact, RPD officers on the team now wear "soft uniforms" for the outreaches—that are less intimidating when approaching vulnerable populations. This means RPD officers wear a more casual style without the military embellishments of medals, bars and patches.

All officers and members of the team go through a training to become familiar with the Homeless Outreach Team mission and procedure, and the priority for RPD and other team members is offering "services first and often, and enforcement when necessary."

"This is a new approach for Rochester, and it's kind of taken off," says Capt. Person. "When you first start in a new area, people are wary, but you win people over time. We've had homeless go to RTS to meet us at the bus. Now they're bringing their friends to get help for them."

In Rochester, the top challenges for the homeless are mental health, homelessness and hygiene, Capt. Person says.

Team members have told him they've found that when the homeless ask for money, they usually spend it on drugs rather than food or basic necessities. They advise that financial donations are most useful when given directly to agencies that provide services, food, or clothing. For instance, Capt. Person emphasizes that Sister Beth LeValley, of the Sisters of St. Joseph and member of the outreach team, holds clothing drives, puts together hygiene kits and serves food to the homeless.

Lt. Cotsworth notes that there are a couple of challenges in a program like the Homeless Outreach Team. First, there is a misconception that HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) regulations apply, but in many cases they

don't because homelessness data is not considered protected health information, nor is data on substance abuse or other healthcare treatments not covered by insurance. Second, there is a history of "revolving doors" for the homeless in the justice system where people are arrested, released and lost to the streets without follow-up services and contact. He adds that there are current discussions of "wraparound" services that offer productive solutions rather than just release.

Capt. Person says the rewards of this program are "knowing that we're actually helping people" and seeing them come through hardships to become productive members of society. He also lauds the collaboration element of agencies working toward a common goal more effectively. That includes, he adds, the City of Rochester and Mayor Malik Evans making this issue and program a priority and authorizing helpful components like the softer uniforms. Monroe County Executive Adam Bello has also supported the initiative by authorizing collaborations between county agencies and Rochester Police Department.

"This allows me and others to accomplish these things," says Captain Pearson. "Officers do care and want to see better outcomes, want to collaborate. We're not looking to criminalize homelessness. It's not going to help the situation. Our mission is to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring. Eight-hundred fifteen [unhoused individuals] is a solvable number, if we all get on the same page."

For information on becoming an agency partner in the outreach program, volunteering with the program, questions, or referrals, contact Capt. Person at Gabriel.Person@cityofrochester.gov.

River Street Sandwiches

cont'd from pg. 6

ceiling high brick walls and holds nine tables. On one wall is painted with a replica historic map of the South Wedge neighborhood. Along with sandwiches, Cranker loves history.

"I found a historical survey of the Erie Canal, and it said that South Avenue before the Civil War was River Street," said Cranker. He got a friend to replicate historic maps from Monroe County Library's collection. On another wall is a large 1827 map of the Third Ward that shows River Street. On opening day, Cranker said that the

best part was seeing so many faces from the community and people saying, "we've been waiting so long for you to open." "I want the restaurant to be an anchor point for the neighborhood. I want people to congregate after events in the Wedge. Stop and chat."

And of course, eat one of the 45 sandwiches on the menu. 678 South Ave., riverstreetsandwich@gmail.com. Hours: Mon-Friday 8 am – 5 pm., Saturday 10 am – 5 p.m. Closed Sunday.

#Recess Rescue

cont'd from pg. 3

encouraging our community to join in our #RescueRecess pledge. Show your support for active play in our children's school day at healthikids.org/recess.

The Healthi Kids Coalition, an initiative of Common Ground Health, advocates for the creation of policies, systems, environments, and resources that advance the health and well-being of all children birth to age 8 in Rochester and the Finger Lakes region. We advance policies to ensure all kids have the supports

they need for the healthiest start in life.

We encourage you to learn more about the current state of play in the RCS and the information sources we consulted in our PlayROCs the RCS report. For more information on recess global best practices, we invite you to visit the Global Recess Alliance.

Questions and media inquiries may be directed to william.rivera@commonground-health.org.

School #12 Scholars on the Riverie

cont'd from pg. 6

ing June 7, Wednesdays through Sundays.

According to the Corn Hill Navigation website, "Riverie was designed and constructed by Scarano Boat Building in Albany, New York at a cost of approximately \$700,000. Scarano is a leading builder of period wood, aluminum, composite, and steel boats, Coast Guard-certified for public transportation and excursions." About a third of the funding, \$150,000, for the Riverie came in part from COVID-19 relief money the city received through the American Rescue Plan. These funds were intended to help the government recover from the effects of the pandemic. The rest of the funding came from individuals and organizations.

Corn Hill Navigation has raised more than \$538,000 for the construction of Riverie from ROC the Riverway (A City of Rochester and New York State initiative adminis-

tered by New York Power Authority, New York State Canal Corporation, and Empire State Development), Avangrid Foundation in partnership with Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation, Corn Hill Neighbors Association, and more than 100 other organizations and individuals, including 100% participation from Corn Hill Navigation's board of directors. Additionally, the City of Rochester has pledged ongoing support as Corn Hill Navigation acts as the city's Harbormaster. Corn Hill Navigation also acknowledges the very early support from Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation, Davenport Hatch Foundation, and the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

Online booking is now open at CornHillNav.org. Boat rides are available Thursday - Saturday until mid-October. Visit cornhillnav.org for more information.

THE WEDGE GETS READ

Buy an ad in our Oct/Nov. 2023 issue.

Visit <https://www.swpc.org/advertising> to see our very affordable ad rates.

Call 256.1740, ext. 4 for more info.



SUMMER READING

All Together Now
July 3–August 11
Sign up for the Summer Reading Program to win prizes for reading! Registration is required.



Dance Fit with Victory Fitness
Friday, August 4
1:30-2:30pm
Ages 12 and under



Dungeons & Dragons
Every Tuesday
2:30pm
All ages



RocDogs
Wednesdays: July 12 and 25; August 9 and 23
2:15-3:15pm
All ages



Switch Fridays
Fridays: July 7, 14, 21 & 28
2:00-4:00pm
All ages



Anime Club
Wednesdays: July 5, 12, 19 & 26; August 2, 9, 16 & 23
2:00pm
Ages 17 and under



Knitting Club
Every Saturday
12:30pm
Ages 8 and up



Happy Pirates
Thursday, July 13
2:00-3:00pm
Ages 12 and under
Registration recommended.



The Story Book Cook
Thursday, July 20
2:00-3:00pm
Ages 12 and under
Registration recommended.



Seneca Park ZooMobile
Thursday, August 3
2:00-3:00pm
Ages 12 and under



971 South Avenue • 428-8206 All programs are free and all supplies are included.

This library is accessible to people with disabilities. To request specific accommodations call 585-428-8304 ten days prior to the program.



August 2023

FREDERICK DOUGLASS COMMUNITY LIBRARY • 971 South Avenue • 428-8206 • RocCityLibrary.org



Summer Events

Rock Painting
Wednesday, August 16
11:00am-3:00pm

Stop in and let your creativity flow - paint a rock (or as many as you like) to be added to the library "rock garden"! Rocks and painting supplies provided; your imagination is all that's needed.



Ice Cream Social
Tuesday, August 29
1:30pm-3:00pm

Celebrate the end of summer with an ice cream sundae. We will have vanilla ice cream plus a selection of syrup and topping choices to make your favorite treat in a bowl.



Narcan Training
Thursday, August 17
11:00am-3:00pm

Stop by the information table set up by Monroe County Department of Health to learn how to use naloxone to save a life and receive a free naloxone kit.



Volunteer Recruitment
All month long

Have you been seeking a fulfilling volunteer opportunity? We are launching a peer-to-peer mentoring program for New Americans in our community. Pick up an application and an information sheet at the circulation desk. If you have questions call (585) 428-8227.



Children's Clothing Swap
Saturday, August 26
Noon-2:30pm

While getting ready for "back to school" do you need to get rid of clothing that's too small? Would you like to trade the too small sizes for "new-to-you" larger sizes? A clothing swap is the answer! Clean, gently used items can be dropped off during open hours on Thursday and Friday or on Saturday before noon. (Note: Not required to donate to "shop".)



All programs are free and supplies are provided.



This library is accessible to people with disabilities. To request specific accommodations, call 585-428-8304 ten days prior to the program.



City of Rochester, NY
Malik D. Evans, Mayor
Rochester City Council

South Wedge Pipes May Still Contain Lead in Tap Water

Glynis Valenti



Photo by Glynis Valenti

Household water supplies are highly regulated for health and safety, and the Rochester area is fortunate to meet and/or exceed drinking water standards from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Health.

The sources of our water for more than 100 years have been two small Finger Lakes--Hemlock and Canadice. The Hemlock Water Filtration Plant processes up to 48 million gallons per day while monitoring and adjusting pH balance, coagulation, contaminants, filtration and fluoridation. Regular testing for the State of New York indicates that there are no contaminant levels of concern in Rochester's water.

If the water is so clean, why is lead testing important and still an issue?

Nearly all lead in drinking and household water comes from pipes and fixtures in or near the home or business. These include brass pipes installed before 2014, galvanized iron pipes in household plumbing, land service lines and galvanized iron service lines with lead goose-necks. Lead may also be present in old plumbing fixtures like kitchen faucets and water fountains, fixtures that have lead solder and the aerators in faucets.

Around 77 percent of housing stock in the South Wedge area was built before 1960, and more than 60 percent of the housing in the South Wedge was built prior to 1939. So, unless the plumbing was renovated in the last 40 years, you may in fact have a lead risk in your home.

To reduce the incidence and risk of lead the City Water Bureau began a 10-year effort called "ROC Lead Free 2030" to remove/replace all old lead service lines in

the streets. By the end of 2023, it is estimated that more than 3,000 outside land service lines will have been replaced. Close to the South Wedge, projects have included the Pearl/Park/Meigs area, South Ave. and Highland Park, and Upper Mount Hope.

Additionally, you can take action to reduce the risk in your own home. First, determine if your service lines are lead. The City of Rochester Property Information website has that information for every address in the city. Go to <https://maps.cityofrochester.gov/propinfo/> and enter your address in the "search" box. When your information comes up, click on the "Water" button at the bottom of the blue panel, and scroll down to the information on service lines, which will list the materials for the outside and inside lines.

If you do have lead service lines and are concerned about the drinking water, the Water Bureau offers free test kits to determine the lead level. Call the laboratory at .585.428-6680 ext. 1 to order one.

To reduce the risk of ingesting any lead in household water, follow these suggestions: 1. if water hasn't been used for four to six hours and has been sitting in the pipes, run the water for a few minutes before using it to bring fresh water to the tap; 2. use cold water only for drinking and food preparation; 3. purchase a water filter certified by the National Sanitation Foundations International (www.nsf.org); 4. clean or replace the faucet screens, which collect lead and rust particle.

For additional questions and concerns about water safety, visit www.cityofrochester.gov/drinkingwatersafety/.



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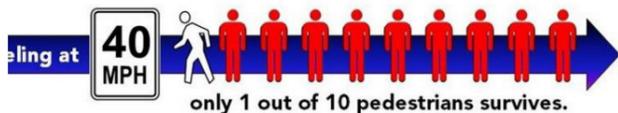
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Somewhere in the South Wedge



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Speed makes a difference whether you or another survives being struck by a car.



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Call 585-325-5260

for more information, or visit our website at

www.sjncenter.org



417 South Avenue, Rochester, NY 14620

***** A FREE EVENT CELEBRATING THE SOUTH WEDGE *****

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH SOUTH AVENUE

BETWEEN GREGORY ST. & AVERILL AVE

11 AM - 6 PM



◆ ARTISTS MAKERS AND VENDORS ◆

PET PARADE ◆ FOOD ◆ MUSIC

◆ FAMILY FRIENDLY ◆

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