

Portraits of Rochester

Spring 2003

Created and written by
the Fourth Grade Class
at The Genesee Community Charter School

What in the World is an Expedition?

By Audrey and Molly Snell

An expedition is a 3-month study. Each expedition covers a different time period. We have an Exhibition Night, which is a time when we show all our work from our expedition. We can do plays, dances, supplements, share stories, videos, any type of product we choose to share our knowledge. We work to learn new skills and gain knowledge during the expedition that will help us to create our product. We always have a deadline for ourselves. We also show what we have been doing during Music and P.E.

The Portraits of Rochester Expedition was rich with language arts. The journey began with letters of request for information to area officials and organizations. Students also communicated with area residents via email to set-up interviews. In preparation for interviewing area residents, students learned the elements of interviewing. Each student was responsible for conducting an interview and taking notes from the recording. In the interviews they focused on being prepared with good questions, listening, and respectful body language. Interviews were shared in writing. Students researched the history of Rochester from approximately 1945 to present using newspapers, books, and the Internet. They learned and practiced note-taking skills. Every child wrote an article for this supplement. We hope you enjoy our paper!



Maggie Brooks



Rochester City Planning

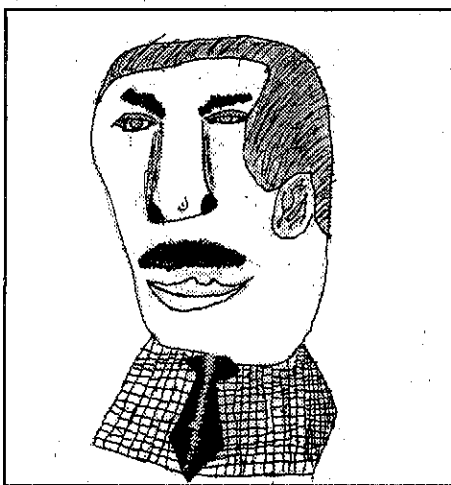
By Ian

Rochester City Planning has gotten better since its beginning in the early 1900's. It was first brought to city officials attention when planning was needed for the placement of things like jails or schools. Now in the present there are certain plans or projects Rochester is working on - the Fast Ferry, Pae Tec Park, High Falls Park, Rochester Transportation Museum, and white water courses. There are many more not mentioned.

Many problems come when a plan is being made. Money is a big issue. Another one is pollution.

City planning is divided into four divisions, economic development, planning and workforce development, industrial development and sports development. The city planner, Larry Stid visited our class. He told us all about the plans for High Falls and reusing buildings. If a large building is not occupied, it's the job of a city planner to find a use for it. Buildings downtown are becoming empty as businesses move out to the suburbs.

City planning is something Rochester can't do without. As we continue to grow people have to be in charge.



Larry Stid

Mr. Larry Stid

By Molly Snell-Larch

Mr. Stid works for the city. He is a City Planner. He plans out many of the things that the city wants to do. He came and talked to us about a city planner's role in Rochester. He also talked to us about zoning laws, some of his projects etc.

E147 Thank you Larry Stid!
Portraits of Rochester
Northeast Regional Archive
Genesee CCS

MAGGIE BROOKS

By Hannah

Maggie Brooks is the Monroe County Clerk. Maggie is running for Monroe County Executive. She is well known in Rochester, she was a television and radio reporter. The people of Rochester have voted for Maggie for many different committees and organizations in Rochester.

On 1997 Governor Pataki appointed Maggie Brooks for the job of Monroe County Clerk. In the same year, Maggie was elected by a landslide to her own four-year term.

In Maggie's job she handles legal recordings, filing, licensing, permits, passports and DBA's. Maggie also runs three Monroe County Auto License Bureaus and two Mobile Motor Vehicle Offices, which is a pilot project that offers Portable Motor Vehicle Service. Before Maggie's appointment as Monroe County Clerk she was an important voice in the legislature for the town of Irondequoit.

Maggie has served as a Vice-Chairman of the human service Committee that oversees the Department of Social Service, which is the largest account in the Monroe County budget. Maggie was also Vice Chairman of the Recreation and Education Committee that keeps a watchful eye on Monroe County Parks. Maggie also is on the transportation Committee that is primarily responsible for the road bridges of Monroe County.

Maggie is also on the boards of Alternatives for Battered Women, Monroe County Hospital, Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Rochester, Women's Health Source of Highland Hospital, a teaching consultant with Junior Achievement of Rochester, and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. In 1993, Maggie was voted women of the year by Muscular Dystrophy of Rochester.

Maggie Brooks wants to improve the Seneca Park Zoo for the benefit of Monroe county families. Maggie has worked very hard and always looks out for her neighbors best interest!

Mayor Johnson and His Role in Rochester

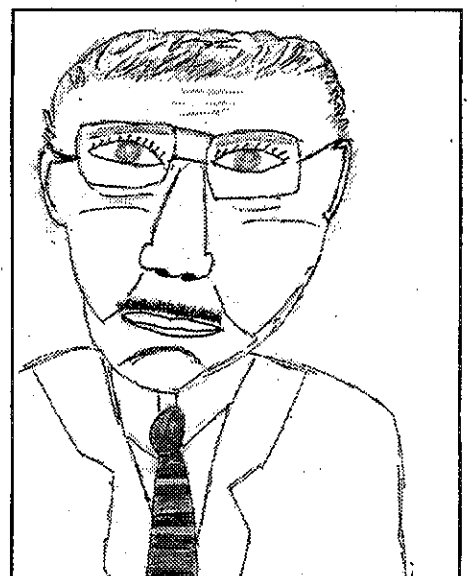
By Matthew

Mayor Johnson is the mayor of our city. He has been mayor of our city for three terms; he was elected in 1993, 1997, and 2001. Mayor Johnson is running for County Executive this year. Mayor Johnson has done great things for Rochester. For example, black scholars endowment fund, urban league economic corporation, education initiative/ call to action, and neighborhood teams, etc.

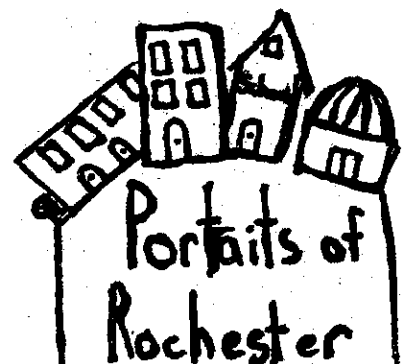
Mayor Johnson loves children. Mayor Johnson says the key to a child's life is education. He reads to kids all the time.

Mayor Johnson does not agree with urban sprawl. Urban sprawl is when the suburbs keep moving out from the city and keep taking up more space.

Mayor Johnson is a busy man. Including being mayor, he also has three daughters, one stepdaughter, and four grandchildren. He is an important part of our city.



Mayor Johnson



Maggie Brooks
 County Clerk
 Nicoya Jones, Francesca Wetmore-Rivera, Katelyn Chatterton.

What made you be a politician?

Well, I was a newspaper reporter for 14 years and when that came to an end I still wanted to be part of the community. When I was a reporter I was a voice for my people and a part of my group. I also enjoyed helping out in my community.

How does your job affect Rochester?

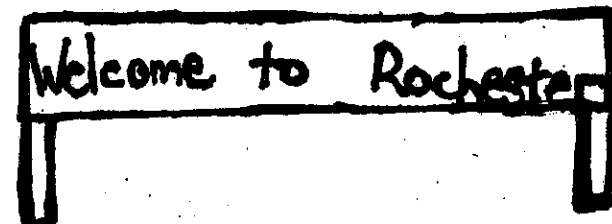
We are the official record keepers of the Monroe County. Sometimes people need passports or just a fishing license. If we did not have those papers it would make a big impact on Rochester.

Why do you want to be County Executive?

Its time for our community to have some new leadership, a different vision for the future, may bring more jobs. I will work very hard to make our community the best that I can.

What makes you the best candidate?

I represent a different style. I will propose meaningful changes. I think we need a bold approach. Also I come to make a clear vision for the future.



Midtown Plaza

By: Anija

Midtown Plaza was the first indoor mall in Rochester. It was opened on April 10, 1962. The goal was to create a town center with an indoor shopping mall a parking garage that accommodates 2000 cars. This wasn't just a new idea in Rochester; it was a new idea worldwide.

The people were attracted to Midtown because it was unique. They enjoyed being able to shop inside. People liked the parking garage. Midtown Plaza gave Rochester more than shopping. It created many jobs for Rochester citizens. There were places to eat. There were also places for people to gather and socialize.

Today Midtown Mall has many empty stores. Things in the mall need to be fixed. It has not been taken care of. Not a lot of people want to go there any more. In the beginning it was a shiny new town center now it is an old worn out mall.

I think Midtown Mall today should be reconstructed so more people would want to come and shop more often. It is important to keep the center of Rochester alive.

Consumerism

Angelo Chiarella

How long have you lived in Rochester?

Since 1962.

If you were mayor how would you change midtown?

I would get a lot of money from the government to bring back stores and other attractions that would draw people back to downtown. I would also bring modern technology to date.

How did your job affect Rochester?

I helped to make midtown better and improve Rochester.

What advice would you give to a person that just moved to Rochester?

Get involved in the community, work for the poor.

How do you think Midtown affected citizens?

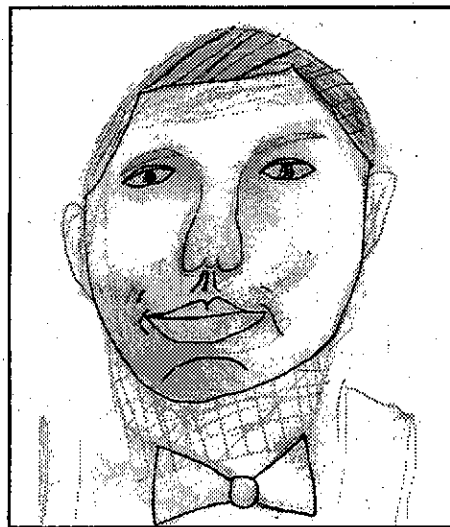
It gave Rochesterians a great sense of pride and increased the tax base. Also, all new buildings were put up around it.



Angelo Chiarella



Angelo Chiarella



Angelo Chiarella



Mrs. Cheplowitz Interview

By Jamie Peel, Sterling Johnson and Ian Slothower
 Rochester resident for 46 years

What was it like going to Midtown when you were a kid?

We got on the bus and went downtown to see Santa Claus at Midtown at Christmas time. We'd ride the monorail and do our shopping at Midtown.

Do you remember the Clock of Nations?

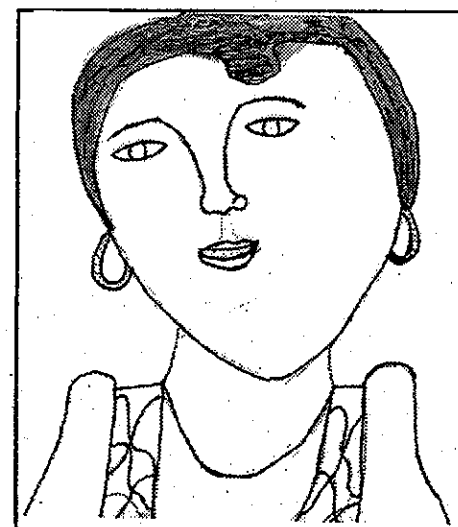
Of course, we had to meet under the clock on the hour.

What stores were there? Are they still there?

Sibleys was there. It is not still there today. McCurdys isn't there anymore either. There was a small Wegmans in Midtown. B.S Formans was there but not anymore.

Is Midtown still your favorite mall?

Yes. There is a lot of history. I was there the day it opened. It was easy to get there from my house.



Mrs. Cheplowitz

Rochester Malls

By: Klara

Our classroom dictionary defines the word mall as a shopping area in a community with a variety of shops around an often-covered space with people who are walking. Most people define malls as SHOPPING! Guess what? Malls are not just for shopping! Most malls have entertainment like singing, contests, fairs, storytellers, fundraisers, and lots of other activities. Also, if you have a big family and you all like to eat different things, a lot of malls have food courts with a lot of places to eat.

Rochester is very fortunate to have 5 malls. Greece, Marketplace, Eastview, Irondequoit and Midtown.

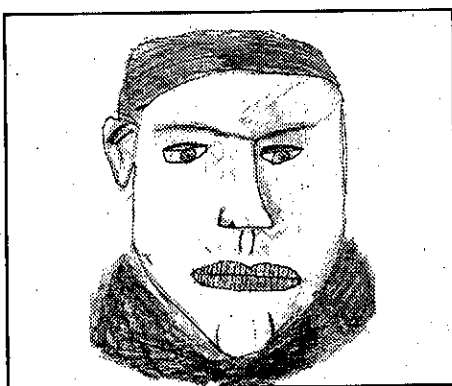
Irondequoit Mall is dying. As it is now right now at Irondequoit there is only about 10 stores left. I think Irondequoit Mall needs to have more activities and entertainment. This way it will attract more people and if more people come more stores will want to work here.

Marketplace Mall is blooming. Marketplace Mall is doing well but I think if they have more activities the number of people would increase.

Greece Mall is rising. Greece Mall is doing very well and I don't want anything to be changed about this mall.

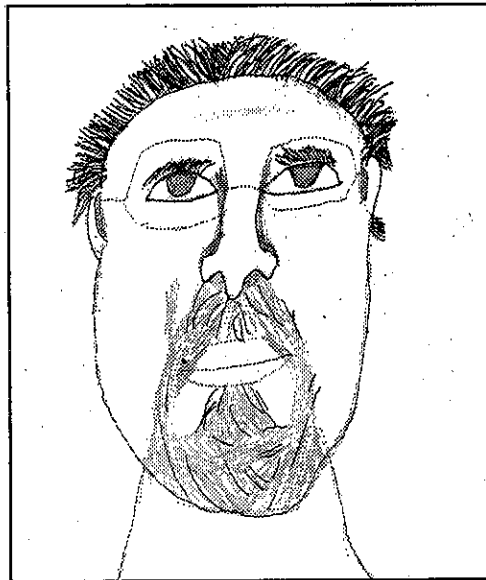
Eastview Mall is the largest mall yet in Rochester. This mall is going great; they are making a 400,000 square foot expansion. This offers more space for entertainment and stores.

I think malls are a big part of my life and I hope they're a big part of yours. Like I said Rochester is very fortunate to have 5 malls. I think malls are a great place to have fun and to shop.



Mr. Frank Chiarella

CONSUMERISM



Mr. Hutchinson

Mr. Hutchinson

By Melanie Cope and Timothy Quarles
Mr. Hutchinson gave us a lot of information on Midtown Mall.

What is your best memory of Rochester?

Rochester was always very busy so there were lots of shops like McCurdy's, Bozo's Playland and a little gift shop for only kids.

How does Rochester compare to other cities?

Compared to other cities like LA it is very small but more friendly, every 5 feet there is another house.

What was Midtown Mall like?

Very big and important, good place to buy gifts.

What do you think about the newspapers?

The newspapers are very one-sided; they don't tell what really happens.

Nick Tahou's Hots

By Jennifer

In 1918 a Greek immigrant named Alex Tahou opened a restaurant in Rochester, NY named Nick Tahou's. There are two Nick Tahou's restaurants now. One is located at 320 W. Main Street. The other one is located at 2260 Lyell Ave., Gates. Alex Tahou's son Nick Tahou was the one who made the "garbage plate." The garbage plate is an item on the menu that has made the restaurant very popular. Now people call the restaurant Nick Tahou's, "the home of the garbage plate." Through the years, Nick Tahou's popularity has inspired other restaurants to add garbage plates to their menus.

You are probably wondering what's in the garbage plate- well I'll tell ya! First, there are some fries, cold macaroni salad and cold baked beans. Toss a couple of hot dogs or hamburgers on top. Then smother the whole thing with meaty hot sauce, onions and mustard are optional. If you want you could put ketchup and hot sauce on it. Get some bread so the dish won't drip and there you go, you just made a garbage plate! Nick Tahou's gets more business on weekends than on weekdays. I guess on the weekends, more people are in the mood for a garbage plate!

Just so you know, people think the garbage plate should have a different name like dirty plate, Nick Tahou's greatest garbage plate, and much more. What do you think?

Frank Chiarella's Interview

Frank Chiarella
Architect, in his 40's
By Zach Hilton, Matt Denk, and Jordan Smith

Q: What are your best and worst memories of Rochester?

A: My best memories are as a child because there were shops like Sibley's and Midtown. We went to movies a lot, I especially liked the cartoons. My worst memory is when my friends moved away from Rochester and when some businesses moved out of Rochester to the suburbs. The weather also bothers me.

Q: Do you like living in Rochester?

A: It's a great town and a great place to have raise a family. The schools are really good too. Rochester is also a great place to golf.

Q: How has Midtown Plaza effected you personally?

A: My Father was a manager there when it first opened. I remember when they brought circus animals to the mall. I liked all the stores that came. I hated to see them close and leave.

Q: How does your job affect Rochester?

A: We help build a lot of buildings including your school.

City Planner Word Finder

By Anija
Mixed up words

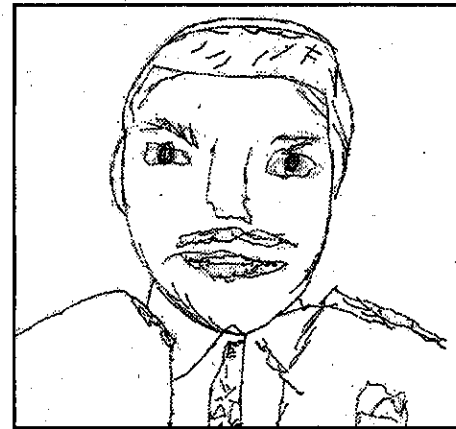
What is the word

1. ytic nanrepr _____
2. coRhetsrr _____
3. romya _____
4. eopelp _____
5. zicines _____
6. gohoinebor _____

Intimacy and Caring

Action for a Better Community
James H. Norman
Executive Director
The Promise of Community
Action

"Community action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."



Mr. James Norman

Xerox

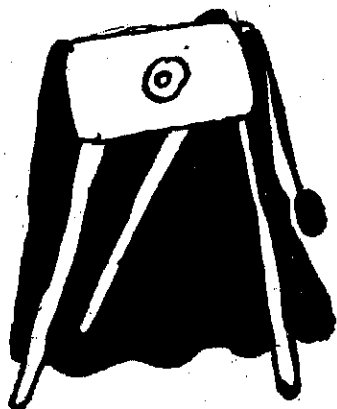
By Glendale

Xerox opened a new large factory in 1959 to make xerographic machines. The new factory was built in suburb of Webster. The local employment went up and helped boost the economy. The industrial employment in our county went up to 106,000 in 1959, when total output of local manufacture exceeded one billion dollars in value for the first time ever.

Today, Xerox still employs many people in our city. It is a large reason our city is so strong today. Many jobs are available at Xerox for people who live in Rochester, like, integration engineer, power supplies and real estate accountant. The vision at Xerox is to help people find better ways to do great work. To do this, they make xerographic machines. Copiers make work easier for people and companies. Customers and employees are very important to Xerox and to Rochester.

ABC By Hannah Snell and Brianna

Loretta Scott Board president
 James Norman Executive Director
 Project Link- helps sick or ill people.
 Freddie Caldwell former board president
 There are lots of Volunteers
 OCCAP helps with your low-income.
 Youth training ages 14-19
 They have a lot of Early childhood services.
 Like head start and more.
 ABC started in 1965
 Action for a Better Community that is what ABC stands for.
 HEAP is a program that helps people pay their heating bills.
 Thank you for coming Mr. Norman
 ABC is an important part of the Rochester community.



Kodak Timeline

By Tim

Kodak is one of the 25 largest companies in the United States.

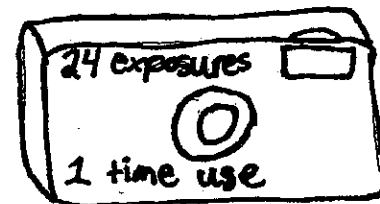
1888- George Eastman and Henry Strong started Kodak in Rochester, NY.

1980- Kodak celebrated its 100th anniversary.

1986- Kodak introduced two new Kodacolor films. The company also introduced Kodak ultra life lithium power cells. Advances in technology from Kodak include the worlds first electronic image sensor with 1.4 million pixels, or picture elements.

1988- Contaminants found in ground water near Kodak park.

2003- Kodak continues to be an important industry and employer in Rochester.



Changes in the World

Race Riots

by Alexandria

The date was July 24, 1964. It was really hot summer evening, when the police were summoned by the mother's Improvement Association of the Eighth Ward to remove a drunken man from street. That is when it all started.

The police were trying to arrest a black man. A group of black young men tried to block the police. People were surprised that the black people were fighting back. Back then black people didn't stand up for themselves. They were not treated equally. They felt as though the police were just try to arrest a black man. It stated to get so bad that they had to bring in the k-9 dogs. One dog might have bitten a child. EVERY ONE WENT WILD. The riot lasted for a week.

After that a suit was brought against the city for damages. It was settled out of court for \$12,000. The riots made people realize black and whites needed to be treated equally.

Today in Rochester race riots are not a concern. I think that people still don't like each other but some places are better. A riot doesn't help anything it makes it worse.

Major Feuds Affect Rochester

By Zach

The tragic years of 1939-1945 were the years of World War II. New York's soldiers of the day fought against Japan and Germany around the world. A German leader named Adolf Hitler attacked Holland, Norway, Belgium, and many more countries. On December 7, 1941 the Japanese attacked U.S. troops at Pearl Harbor. Many troops including Rochester soldiers died that day.

Many Rochester companies had fund raisers for our troops fighting. They all got Army-Navy E awards for their help. Over 500 women either joined the military or got "man jobs."

A week after Pearl Harbor was attacked Rochester had its first ever blackout. No one knew what to do. First the power flickered on and off. Next thing they knew it there were no lights. April 5, 1941 the Federal Government safely exploded an A-bomb in downtown to show affects of war. Citizens were mad.

Fads and Fashion

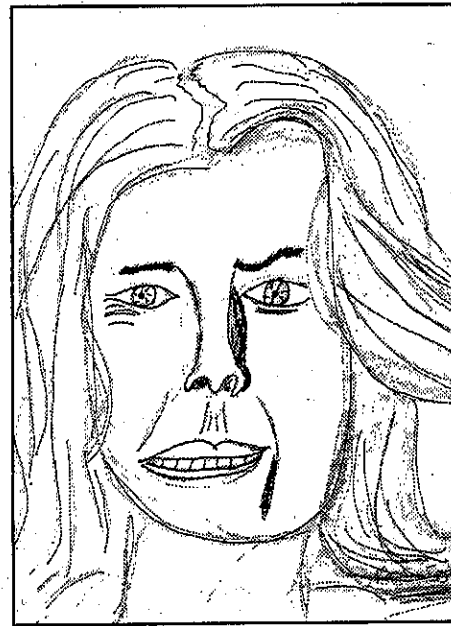
By Melanie

Many people in 1950s were very interested in Fads and Fashion. Personally my favorite fad was the 'time of horses'. That was when, for 1 week people spent lots of their time with horses. But there are many other fads that are important, so lets not forget about them. One fad was 'sweet feed week', where people ate only pop and cookies. Boy, I would have loved that! But it was the year 1953.

Now, on to fashion. In the 1950s many boys wore fancy shirt collars on their shirts. Later in the 1960s shirts with fancy ruffles became uncommon.

With much reason the 1960s were called the 'Hippie' years. Women were very careless with what they wore. Mini skirts and Afros were 'in'. People soon became obsessed with clothes, trends, and love. Natural materials such as cashmere and wool became an excellent way to attract many new friends.

Back then, you would never see anyone wearing jeans and a loose T-shirt. Today the fashion is sweatpants, jeans, T-shirts, headbands, and sneakers and socks. It is hard to imagine what tomorrow will bring. Fashion has made a huge difference in our lives from today to tomorrow.



Mrs. Salerno

Peace Protests

By Sterling

Eight people in Rochester decided to make a stand against the Vietnam War in 1970. The eight people took all the draft records and started throwing them all on the floor the ground and thought they could get away with it. Nobody thought that they did it. The people at the desk weren't there and when the eight people heard them coming they left out of a different door in the room. These people were caught and were sent to jail for 12 months.

This year 2003 Rochester had Peace Protests again. The people were protesting the War on Iraq. It was at night with candles. People sang, made signs. And gave speeches.

The protests that we had are different from each other. It's because they were for 2 different Wars and different things happened during the protests. During the Vietnam War people who were protesting found some draft records and destroyed them but this years peace protest none of this happened. During this years peace protest people were marching, holding up signs, saying no war for oil and other stuff like that.

I would have liked to Protest in our Peace Protest this year because I think it is important.

Diversity And Inclusivity

Kay Salerno's Interview

Kay Salerno

Mrs. Salerno was born in Rochester, but moved to Attica and to Buffalo. She returned to Rochester when she was 5 yeas old.

Mrs. Salerno worked at E.W. Edward's during her high school years. She also lived through the Race Riots.

Q: What do you remember about the RACE RIOTS?

A: The Race Riots took place in the year of 1964. My husband and me just got married and were driving home from my relatives on the inner loop. There was a lot of traffic on the way back, and we didn't have a clue why there was because it was a Sunday evening. The police stopped us and wanted to know where we were going. We said we were driving home to our apartment on Culver Rd. We had to show our ID. The police said we could go home but we had to lock our doors, and windows. My husband asked what was happening. The police said that some kind of riot happening. On Monday morning we had to still go to work. Very, very few people went downtown that day. It was a very sad time for Rochester.

Q: What started the RACE RIOTS?

A: A lot of people were upset with their jobs, housing, and clothing. They felt that this was the only way to get what they wanted. One of my friend's uncle died because of the RACE RIOTS.

Q: What part of Rochester did the riots take place in?

A: On the perimeter of downtown. It was also on North Street and behind Sibley's.

Q: What is your opinion on the RACE RIOTS?

A: I think it was a very sad time for Rochester. It wasn't the right way to handle this problem because a lot of people got killed. There were tipped cars, some shooting... I just think it was a very sad time.

Tom Ryan, More than a Mayor

By: Sydney

Who was Rochester's most famous mayor? Well in my point of view, I think Tom Ryan was definitely one of them. On December 4th 1929 a young little baby was born eventually become the mayor of Rochester. Thomas P. Ryan grew up as a regular, every day kid.

Tom really didn't become interested in politics until he was 27. He received his law degree during that age from the Syracuse University. In 1961, Tom Ryan was elected as one of the Monroe County Board of Supervisors from the 18th Ward. He served as this position for 5 years. In 1967, Tom was elected as a city council member. Chosen by the city council, in 1974, he became the choice for appointed mayor.

In 1986, [drum roll please], Thomas P. Ryan became Rochester's first full time mayor! [Mayor Ryan was re-elected] "For a mayor he was a very shy man," said a friend and former Democratic elections commissioner, Besty Relin, "he was not a small talker. He was not a schmoozer." Mayor Ryan started a 25,000,000 dollar plan to develop High Falls into an entertainment center. Ryan helped New York [including Rochester] pay back tens of millions of dollars in property taxes. "When he spoke it wasn't political gibberish. He meant what he said," Retired Monroe County chief, Andrew Meloni.

Although Mayor Ryan was a very good Mayor he didn't pay much attention to the police department, as a result to this in 1990 Chief Gorden Urlacher embezzled drug money. Mayor Tom Ryan appointed the first Hispanic, and the first African American female to the city court judgeships. "He appointed me as the first African American female commissioner and it wasn't for form or fashion, it was because he thought I would do a good job." - first female African American commissioner, Teresa Johnson.

The year is now 1993 and Mayor Ryan is winding down. He has decided it's about time to end his roll as mayor. At the end of that year he retires from his office. William A. Johnson Jr. becomes Rochester's new mayor. On March 14th 2003 it is great sadness to know that Mayor Thomas P. Ryan passes away. He was only 73 when he died, but many still remember him, not only as a mayor but also as a friend, a role model, and a hero to many. "You don't have to understand it, you just have to remember it".

-Mayor Tom Ryan

T R A N S P O R T A T I O N

Mrs. Meredith Reiniger

Volunteers her time extensively with Habitat for Humanity. She has lived her whole life in Rochester.

By Zachary Hilton, Jordan Smith and Matthew Denk.

What is one of your favorite memories of Rochester?

One of my favorite memories of Rochester is dressing up with a purse and white cotton gloves to go downtown with my mom. It was always a special time for us. My mom wore a dress, silk stockings that hooked to her garters. Then she put on high heels because ladies dressed-up that way. White cotton gloves on women meant they were dressed up for something special.

What method of transportation did you use?

My mom and I went on the bus. We could see the Genesee River from the bus and was it ever beautiful. We got off at Main street and Clifford avenue, right next to Sibleys.

Why was Sibleys so important?

It had a big 20 foot, four sided clock in the middle. We used to meet there whenever we went down town. I remember a big plastic Mr. Peanut man in the window. I remember the elevator operator. He wore white gloves and a fancy uniform. My aunt worked there also. She was there for 46 years. The store gave her the chair she sat in all those years. I have that chair now.



Mrs. Reiniger

Mr. David Stokes

By: Audrey Miller, Brianna Rivera and Sterling Jonasse

How has Rochester changed since the 1950s?

Mostly everybody lived in the city, because suburbs were only farmland. There was no crime in the city, which meant less security by the police. People used coal for heat. Everybody in the neighborhood had the same key because it was easy to make the same one and there was no need for a change because there was no crime.

What happened when the Race Riots started?

The Riots jammed up a lot of traffic because they would sometimes have fights in the streets. People started moving into the suburbs and that's when they created Brighton, Pittsford and Fairport.

What was transportation like?

Up until 1955 streetcars were the main transportation. Then buses came, along with taxies. But before that, I had to walk a half-hour to school from 1st grade to 8th grade alone.

What did you do for fun?

I would go to the vaudeville houses which were downtown. I went to Sibleys, McCurdys and Edwards when I was a kid for shopping. I also went to sporting events which were held at Edgerton Park.



Mr. Stokes

The Inner Loop

By Jordan Michael

The Inner loop was built in 1952. The Inner Loop is an expressway connecting neighborhoods. The Inner Loop is in the middle of Rochester. The Inner Loop was officially opened in 1952. It was built to connect neighborhoods to others places.

City engineers put it in the middle of the Rochester. The Inner Loop took 20 years to build. The Inner Loop caused many problems. It has caused deaths, injuries, and people have been hospitalized. It has also added to pollution. Some citizens are rethinking the Inner loop even though the Inner loop has done a lot for our city.

RTS

By Jordan

The RTS started in 1969. The Regional Transit Service is a bus company. The company is in downtown Rochester.

The RTS is an old company. In 1969, RTS took over buses in Rochester. RTS stands for Regional Transit Service. Rochester Regional Transportation Authority was created by N.Y. State to further improve public transit in the Rochester Genesee Region. It was built to get people places, so they didn't have to drive, mostly if they didn't have a car.

RTS drops people off at Walmart on Chili Avenue. RTS also drops people off at Wegmans. RGTA usually serves nearly 1500 passengers a day and operates over 300 buses.



Mr. Stokes

The Public Libraries

By Molly Snell

Fifty years ago Monroe

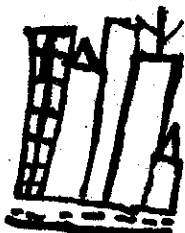
County Library System was given permission to promote services to the public. Now nearly 400,000 residents have library cards. According to a 1998 survey, 76% of the population has used the library at least once in the past six months. This also includes independent public libraries in Brighton, Brockport, Chili, East Rochester, Fairport, Gates, and Greece ect. These libraries are governed by their own board of trustees and are funded by local taxes. Now they have trained staff to assist in finding things that you need including books, CDs, and magazines and places where children can experience the joy of reading.

Libraries are changing. For instance Stephen King has caused quite a stir with his decision to publish his newest book in only electronic format-no paper copies being sold! But if you ask a librarian they will say that this has been evolving to this for a very long time. Some scientific journals have been written in electronic form for quite long time. Now there is access to electronic books in libraries. Experts say this is not good for children's learning.

I remember going to the library for hours on end, just pondering bookshelves. Sometimes I would find bunches of picture books, sit down and read them all. I don't always have time for this, but I like to do it. Then I would walk proudly out of the library with my arms filled with books to supply me until the next library trip. I have good memories of the libraries. I also like the quiet in which you can read.

Although I have done this I have not been to any of the activities at the libraries. They have all kinds of things to do including stories and musical stuff, like bedtime stories Thursday at 7pm, jammies, bears, and blankets welcome. They also have Mitze Collins with the banjo and Hammer Dulcimer. Other things include Mr. Beau the clown and Greta Garbage.

The library is an important part of Rochester's history and education.



Mrs. Petri Interview

By Ian , Jamie , and Sterling

How long have you lived in Rochester?

My whole life. 60 years.

Do you like Rochester?

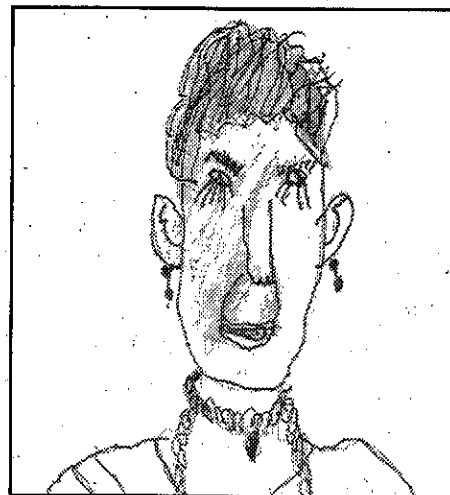
Yes. It is a very nice place to live and bring up a family. My family lives here.

What are your best and worst memories?

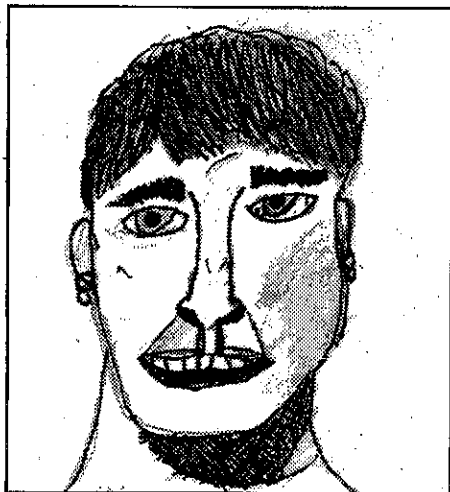
My worst memory was the 1991 ice storm memory was and snow storms. My best memory is walking at the lilac festival (it wasn't really a festival then.) My father took lots of pictures because he worked for Kodak.

If you could change Rochester how would you?

The city would have more to offer for young people like shopping or entertainment. I would like to see more businesses come to Rochester. I would like to see Midtown come back.



Mrs. Petri



Mrs. Petri

Are They Genuine?

By: Nicoya

For nearly three decades, there has been a controversy over two local portraits of the city's father Nathaniel Rochester. The Memorial Art Gallery and the Rochester Historical Society own both of the paintings. John James Audubon possibly made the paintings. Memorial Art Gallery's director Grant Holcomb and Rochester Historical Society's director Ann Salter made a bet about which institution has an authentic Audubon image. It looks like they both lost the bet. Local lawyer and art enthusiast Peter Brown sent both institutions a draft of his findings. Peter studied the portraits for three years.

Peter Brown says that neither of the paintings are from the brush of Audubon. The Memorial Art Gallery oil painting may have been commissioned from an unknown artist around 1822 by the bank of Rochester, which Rochester headed until about 1824. Brown believes that the sketches were used by Audubon to create formal oil paintings at a later date. Those works were probably destroyed when a Lake Ontario mansion owned by Rochester's great-grandson Hart Rogers caught in the fire in 1924.

The mystery may never be completed intrigued by other aspects of the paintings as well. For example, visitors may ask questions like, "Why do Nathaniel's eyeglasses have an extra eyeglass on the side?" The answer is that you're looking at one of the first pairs of bifocals worn by the founder of the future "World's Imaging Center!"

HISTORIC

HIGH FALLS REDEVELOPMENT

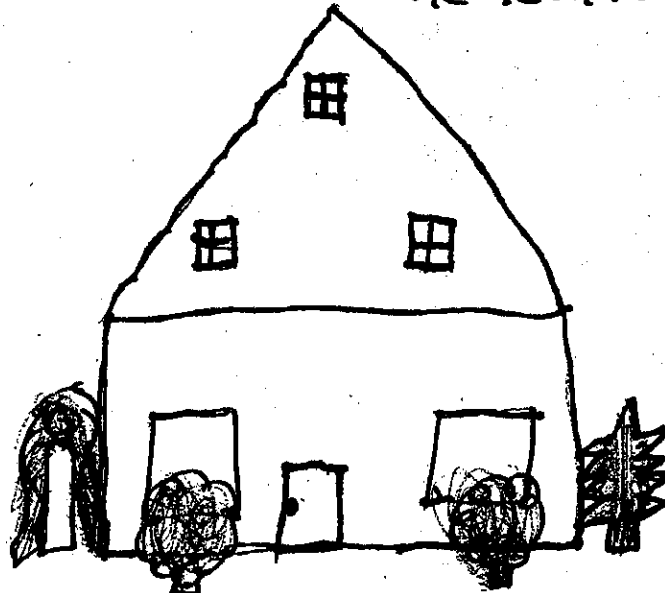
BY JAMES PEEL

High Falls is located along the Genesee River in Rochester. Recently the Cordish Company made plans to redevelop the High Falls area. They want to make more entertainment and more things to do. Things like water games, laser shows, and restaurants.

These things will make more money for people who work there and the city. The city has to pay the Cordish Company \$2.4 million over 5 years to manage the High Falls "for years we've been asking the administration to come up with a plan to cut the bleeding." Robert Stevenson said, meaning ways to cut the bills and taxes and save money. The plan is to renovate the restaurants and buildings by June 1, 2003, but it may take longer to build the other things.



Solitude and Reflection



Susan B. Anthony House

By Vontrase

Susan B. Anthony lived on 17 Madison Street, near West Street, around 1850. The house was built before the Civil War and it is made of brick. The house is now a museum to help people learn about Susan B. Anthony and how she helped with the fight for women's right to vote.

When visiting her house you can get a lot of information about her and what she did for women's rights. If you were learning about women's suffrage (suffrage means right to vote), her house would be a good place to go. You can learn how she helped with women's rights.

Did you know that Susan B. Anthony was arrested for voting in her front parlor? Did you know that Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglas were good friends and he helped with The Women's Right's Movement. He was a big help. And did you know there is a statue of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglas drinking tea, that is near her house.

The Frederick Douglas Resource Center

By Sterling

Frederick Douglas lived a very long life. He was born in 1847 and died in 1872. He is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery.

As a kid, Frederick Douglas, always wanted to read. When he was sixteen years old him and his slave owner had a fight. The fought went on for two hours. He escaped slavery and he fought successfully to help end the institution of slavery. When he grew up he moved to the same city, as Susan B. Anthony and they became good friends. Frederick Douglas helped women fight for their rights.

Across the street from Susan's house is a statue called "Let's have Tea." It is of Susan and Frederick having tea. While he lived in Rochester he printed a newspaper called the North Star. He wrote about how slaves should be free.

Frederick Douglas will have museum named after him called the Frederick Douglas Resource Center. The house bought by his supporters is on King Street. Susan B. Anthony's home is near the site for the resource center.

Mrs. Hagen

By: Olivia and Alliyah

Mrs. Hagen works at the Landmark Society. She has lived in Rochester about 12 years.

Q. Can you tell me about the Landmark Society?

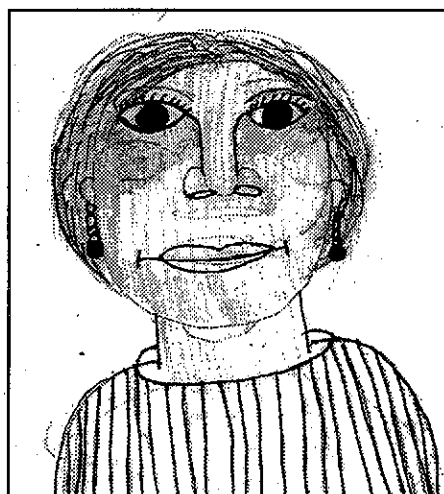
A. Well the Landmark Society was founded sixty-six years ago (1937) to preserve a famous, historic mansion. Since then, this preservation organization has saved dozens of important buildings, helped to establish historic districts that preserve entire neighborhoods, and run education programs to teach children about a wonderfully built environment.

Q. What is the biggest change you've seen in Rochester?

A. The continued sprawl into outlying communities while our urban center and older suburbs suffer from abandonment has been the biggest change.

Q. What do you think about Mayor Johnson and his role in Rochester?

A. I applaud Mayor Johnson's campaign to establish wide planning process and his honest approach to government. He is an advocate of metropolitan schooling- which I also think would help to mitigate the extreme economic and racial segregation in our greater metro area.



Mrs. Hagen



Mrs. Hagen

Mrs. Seager

Lifetime Rochester Resident

Rochester is a great Place to live!

By Sara, Hannah Snell, and Kendell

How long have you lived in Rochester?

I have lived in Rochester 60 years, which is my whole life.

Why did you choose to live in Rochester?

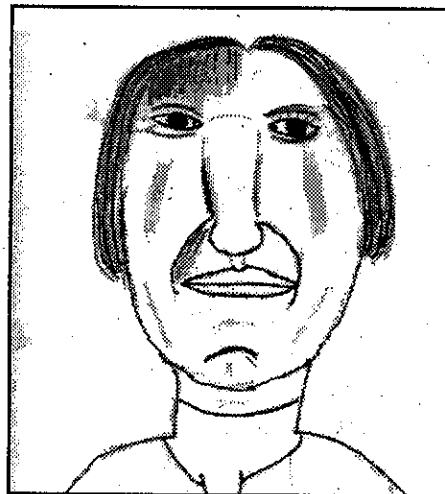
I was born in Rochester and decided to stay because it was such a nice place with beautiful parks and it was a wonderful place to live.

Is there a special memory that you would like to share?

I remember being at my father's work next to the High Falls and throwing wood chips out of the window into the High Falls and watching them go down the falls and seeing if I could spot them floating bellow the falls.

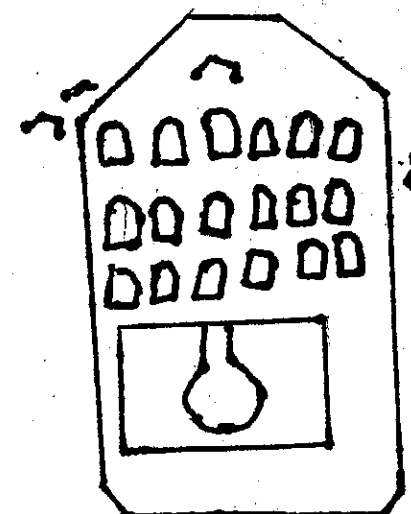
What has changed about how people live in Rochester?

One thing that has changed about how people live in Rochester is now most people have two or three cars back then you would have one and the family would share it. The father would be at work Monday - Friday so the mother would have to go to the market on Saturday since Sunday was the Holy Day.



Mrs. Seager

The Midtown
Clock plays music.



Natural World

The Seneca Park Zoo Expansion



THE SLIMY ALGAE MESS

By: Alliyah

Rochesterians would like to go to Ontario Beach. A citizen was heard to say, "I go in occasionally-if it's not too gross." It is gross because algae were spread around the beach. An alga is a tiny green plant. Algae can make people sick because bacteria grow in it. It is sticky and slimy. It was also described as pea soup because it looked green.

The county officials had plans to keep algae away. They had plans to keep them away from Ontario beach so people can swim. One was to herd the algae. The second way was to make waves and create holes without algae near the swim area.

If algae weren't here, people would go swimming a lot in Ontario beach. Let's do something about the algae problem.

Air Pollution in Rochester

By Katelyn

Our world is in danger of dying. The skies are darker where civilization is. There are buildings, factories, burning trash, and smoke stacks. Our air is being polluted as we speak.

Last year, Rochester got graded for air quality. The grade received was an "D." This year we got an "F." There are well-known kinds of pollution. These consist of smog, acid rain, the greenhouse effect, and holes in the ozone layer. When human activities release substances into the air, problems are caused for humans, plants and animals.

Pollution needs to be considered inside our homes, office buildings and schools also. Most people in the United States spend 80%-90% of their time inside. If you are exposed to harmful indoor pollutants, the result can be serious. That is why it is important to consider both indoor and outdoor air pollution.

Rochester needs to clean up the air and get a better report card.

Rochester Parks

By Audrey

In 1871, Maplewood Park was created and was Rochester's first park. The park has 140 acres of land. A rose garden was planted in 1920 and is now one of the largest rose gardens in the nation. Every year there is the Maplewood Rose Festival where there are artists, crafters, entertainment and the Genesee River gorge to view.

Another one of Rochester's parks is Highland Park. In 1888, Rochester received the land, 20 acres, from Elwanger and Barry. In 1895, Rochester got a gift of 150 acres from Walter Duffy and George Eastman. The City Government added the land onto Highland Park. In 1898, 22 more acres were added to the park. Lilacs were also brought into the park. In 1898, the park started hosting the Lilac Festival which is still going on today.

Many other parks have been created and changed in many ways since 1871. These parks have made Rochester a greener and better place.

The Diaz Company Breakdown

By Molly Snell

The Diaz Company in Holley is suffering from the Environment Commitment Board trying to get them to shut down. Diaz is coming across a catch-22 wherever they go. If they shut down, 50 families will lose their jobs and their livelihoods. If they stay in business then they will suffer from trying to get all the equipment for the environment safety, which is very expensive. The Mayor says, "It will be bittersweet for the town of Holley."

The reason for all this commotion is a chemical spill on January 5, 2002. The pressure in a chemical tank triggered a safety valve and released 2-chloro-6-floropheono (also known as arthritis medicine). The chemical spill left brown goop and a bad odor. 173 residents fled their homes. Nine families have still not re-entered. They filed a suit against Diaz for \$17,000.

This could easily happen in Rochester with all its businesses. We have to make sure it doesn't happen!

By Hannah Snell-

The Seneca Park Zoo became a zoo in 1931. Before that they only had deer and birds. The zoo back then had small cages and the cages did not look like the animals real habitats. The zoo began growing bigger and the animals got more space. In 1993 they started making animal cages that made them feel like they were at home in their natural habitat. In 1997 bigger homey habitat sections for the polar bears and the sea lions opened. Visitors could watch the animals like they were in their natural habitat.

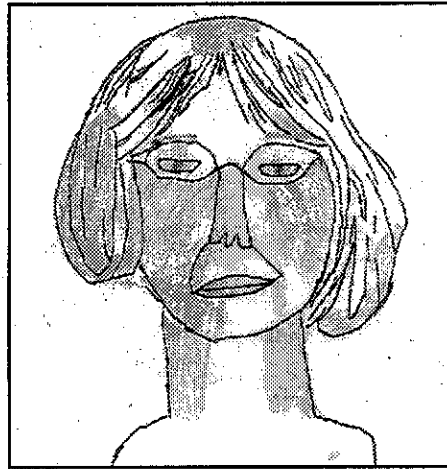
The new zoo expansion will make the animals cages larger and more like natural habitat. The parking lot will be made, as well as bigger rest rooms, play areas and hiking trails will be improved. Along with the expansion, the zoo will be getting giraffes (yearlong), rhinoceros, lions, zebras, ostriches, chimpanzees, black bears, mountain lions, red pandas, sun bears, flamingos and Japanese snow monkeys.

Some people that I talked to wanted the animal's cages to get bigger and better but they do not understand why the people at the zoo want a bigger parking lot. The zoo workers need a new place for the new animals that will be coming over the summer. Some of them will be staying throughout the rest of the year! They want to make the parking lot bigger because they think that more people will come to the zoo once it has a bigger variety of animals, so people will not have to walk as far with the new parking lot. People think that when they make the parking lot bigger it is going to cut down trees and the natural habitat near the zoo.

The Primacy of Self-Discovery



Mrs. Baker



Mrs. Baker

Mrs. Ann Baker

By Sharde, Molly Snell, Nate

How long have you lived in Rochester?

About 40 years.

Why did you choose to live in Rochester?

We lived in NYC at the time and my husband got a job offer and we came to live here

What have you done to help the city grow?

Well I have done work with the children of Rochester as a social worker. I work with children and I work with the city forestry department to make sure the trees are healthy.

What changes are needed in Rochester?

Well I like the idea of smart growth, which is the idea that new business and houses are built closer to the city and make countryside more like countryside.

If you were Mayor what would you do in respect to the zoo expansion?

I would do what Mayor Johnson is doing which is saying to the county that the zoo can't expand. Then he is challenging the zoo in court. That's what I would do if I were mayor.

The Natural World

ENTERTAINMENT Park Ave Festival!

By Jennifer

Park Ave festival is a great place to spend time with your family. It is held every summer on Park Avenue. The Park Ave festival attracts over 250,000 people! Let your kids climb a giant inflated climbing mountain and they will have tons of fun. If you want some entertainment, don't worry there are more than 60 musical entertainment groups! There is jazz, blue, rhythm and much much more music and entertainers. If you are hot don't worry there will be lots of drinks. There will be tons of flowers there. Come to the festival some day you will have fun!!



The Lilac Festival
By Sara

The famous lilac collection started in Highland Park in 1892 when John Dunbar, George Ellwanger and Patrick Barry donated the land in the park, which consists of 20 acres.

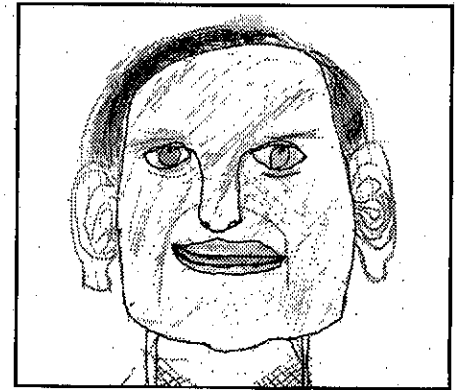
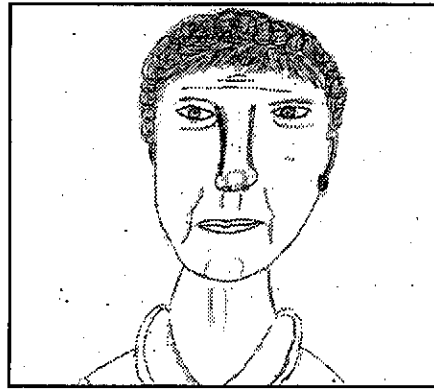
The lilac festival started informally in 1898 when 3000 people gathered. Ten years later, the number had grown to 25,000. The lilac festival started in order to celebrate Rochester's outstanding collection of lilacs.

There are more than 1,200 fragrant lilacs in Highland Park. This gives Rochester the

name, "the Flower City." There are many colors of lilacs including magenta, pink, lilac, blue, violet, white and many other mixed colors.

This year the lilac festival, 10 days like every year was blossoming with many colors. Many people were streaming though the crowds. The stands and tents had crowds of people around them. At the pavilions, children and their families enjoyed shows such as Jazzbo the Clown, the Magic Guy, the Dinner Dogs, Hilby the Skinny German Juggler Boy and lots more. Families browsed and smelled the lilacs.

Lilacs can really bring attention to themselves and to our city.



Mr. and Mrs. McNally

By Sara , Kendall , and Hannah Snell
"We were dating at the first Lilac Festival"

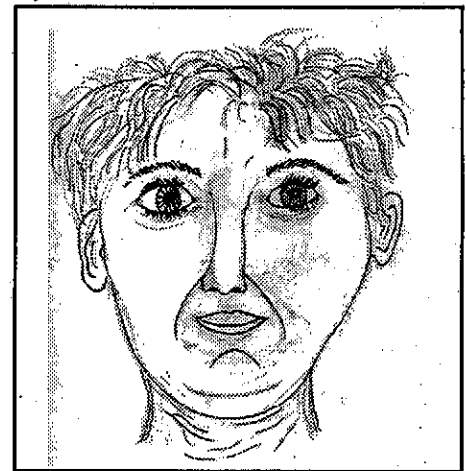
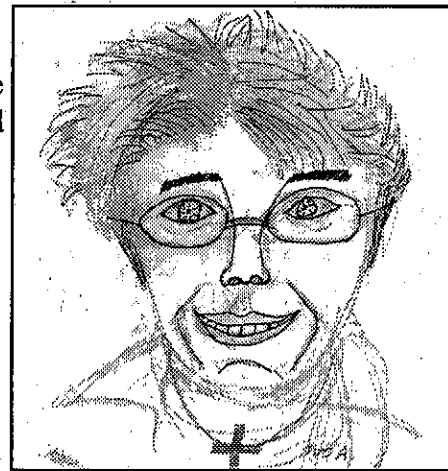
How long have you lived in Rochester?
Since 1960, 63 years

What do you like about living in Rochester?
I like that there are really nice people and that's how I met my wife. There are great colleges and wonderful parks to go to.

If you could do anything to improve Rochester what would it be?
If I could do anything I would improve the safety and I would bring back the businesses to downtown.

Did the Race Riots affect you?
Yes the Race Riots did affect us. The Race Riots were frightening and sad because you could not go downtown. I met my husband because he moved away from where they were happening. It was also frightening because we only lived 4 miles from where the riots were happening.

What is different from then than now?
Back then you could walk downtown alone with pocketbook in hand, full of money!



Mrs. Aspenleiter

Mrs. Aspenleiter

beauty, the Genesee, the Museum, the Music Festival, the Arts Festival... we just have a lot to offer.

Q: What kinds of events are at the lighthouse now?

A: There's tours if anybody's interested in that. The lighthouse is on 70 Lighthouse Street. It's open from May-October, Saturday-Sunday, 1-5 pm.

Q: How does the Bathhouse help Rochester?

A: The Bathhouse helps Rochester because it attracts a lot of people to Rochester and brings people into the community.

Q: Do you have any negative feelings about the Fast Ferry?

A: The traffic will build up around the area where the fast ferry will be harbored. Some elderly people I know that live in Charlotte are worried about traffic. But otherwise I really think it's a great idea!

Q: If you were the mayor what would you change about the Fast Ferry?

A: Nothing, I would just say "Full speed ahead!"

Carol Aspenleiter's Interview

Carol Aspenleiter

Mrs. A is an assistant teacher at GCCS.

She lived in Rochester all her life [In Charlotte].

Mrs. A took part and/or taking part in many committees to help her community become a better place. Hurrah for Mrs. A!!

Q: What is your best memory about Rochester?

A: Mostly growing up on the lake and playing on the beach and the carousel. [it opened in 1905]

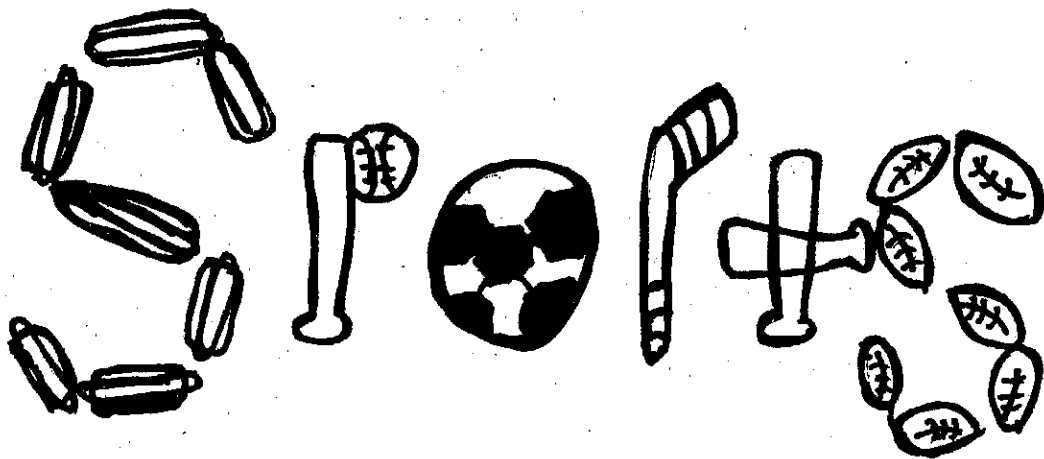
Q: What is your worst memory of Rochester?

A: The weather, because summer showers might rain out the parades and festivals or all the snow we get in the winter.

Q: What do you think is so special about Rochester?

A: Well we have a lot to offer like the great lakes, the natural

Collaboration and Competition



Rochester Raging Rhino Soccer

By Ian

The Rhinos have made Rochester a better place to live through the entertainment, soccer camps and public sightings. The Rhinos have revealed their biggest plan ever, Paetec Park. The Rhinos have hired Wayne LaChase to design the stadium. If the construction begins in August, it could open in July, 2004. Two hundred jobs are expected to come with the stadium. Environmental issues also come with the stadium such as pollution and parking. Demolition will be needed to have space for the stadium.

The Rhinos have been in Rochester for many years and it's apparent they won't go elsewhere.

THE BLUE CROSS ARENA

By Hannah

The Blue Cross-Arena is a large entertainment center that holds many kinds of events. It is open to the public.

George Eastman purchased the building that now is Blue Cross-Arena. Later George Eastman gave the property to the University Of Rochester. The University gave the property to the city. After World War II the city decided to make the property into the War Memorial. In July 24, 1998 the War Memorial was changed into the Blue Cross-Arena.

I think they changed the War Memorial into the Blue Cross-Arena because it has an auditorium, a sports arena,

physical recreation facilities, meeting rooms, display rooms and other rooms.

The Blue Cross-Arena is called the Blue Cross-Arena because Blue Cross paid to have their name be the name of the arena so they would get more customers.

The Blue Cross-Arena affected Rochester in a negative and positive way. Some people didn't like it because they ruined the War Memorial. It was kind of disrespectful to some people in the city because their relatives were in the war and were thought about in the War Memorial. If I had relatives that died in the war I wouldn't like that ether.

The citizen's reactions were good because the Blue

Cross-Arena helped Rochester by attracting more visitors to Rochester. The Blue Cross-Arena also gave citizens in Rochester a place to perform or watch other people perform, play, have meetings and mostly anything you want!

The Blue Cross-Arena changed Rochester by giving it a modern sports arena. The citizen's reaction was mostly good but some people were not as happy as others were about the Blue Cross-Arena.

On September 19, 1998 the Blue Cross-Arena opened!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Rochester, NY Knighthawks

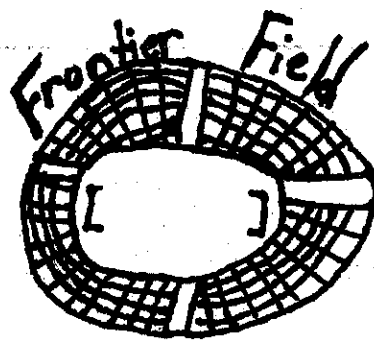
By Sharde

The Knighthawks are a professional lacrosse team in Rochester NY. They wear teal and purple sweaters. Lacrosse is the fastest game on two feet. They play at Blue Cross Arena and they are in their 10th season.

Knighthawks were the Central Division Champions. The team has advanced to four championships. They won the 1997 MILL title. The Rochester Knighthawks forward, John Grants, led the Knighthawks with 99 points this season [46-53]. John was named second team ALL Pro. Rochester Knighthawk General manager, Jody Gage, was chosen second in the NLL for GM of the year.

The Knighthawks have a positive impact on the city in many different ways. One way is that they keeps kids off the streets. Another way is that it brings in money to the city. If more people come the city will have more money. If the city has more money there going to spend it on things people need and make the city better.

The Knighthawks have been a big part of our city.



Ravens Rock

Amerks

By Vontrase

The Amerks are a hockey team that play for Rochester. The Amerks play at the War Memorial Blue Cross-Arena. The Amerks entertain people and they make money to keep up the team and help Rochester. Their season starts with practice in August and games begin in October. Their season goes all the way until April.

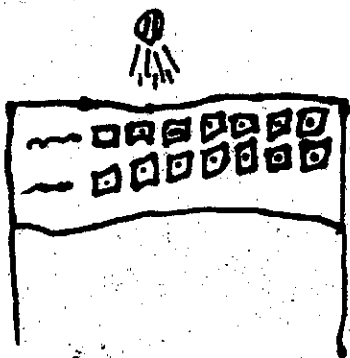
The Amerks make a lot of fans because they are good for Rochester. The Amerks are a professional team that never gives up. The players are from the United States and other countries.

They have many fans and among them are children. Kids can even join the kid fan club. For the really faithful fan they have shirts and caps you can buy.

Rochester had only men's teams for soccer! Not any more! The Ravens and many other teams started in 1994 and 1996.

In spring of 1996 the Rochester Ravens picked player and gave out sponsorships. In October of 1997, RYPP held try out and created four premier teams. In April 1998, RYPP began play.

The Ravens have not won any championships but they made it to the National Tournament (only the top six teams make it to the Tournament this year the game will be hosted by Hampton Roads in Virginia. In the regular season they play teams from Boston, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Long island, Ottawa, Toronto and NY city. In about 1999 or 2000 the Ravens flew to Colorado to play Denver and Ft. Collins. The coach's name is Jill is also the founder of the Rochester Ravens. The Ravens teams have 20 players on their team. Their practice is St. John Fisher College. The Ravens record for last year is 2-12.



Paragraph Reader Quiz

By Nahoma Presberg, Sara Dill and
Melanie Cope

- 1) When did Midtown start?
 - A) January 1991
 - B) June 1995
 - C) July 1993
 - D) June 1972
- 2) Who is head of Arts and Cultural Council of Greater Rochester?
 - A) Sara Bennet
 - B) Martha Hue
 - C) Sarah Lentini
 - D) Steve Levea
- 3) What did Rochester get for a grade for our air last year?
 - A) D
 - B) A+
 - C) B
 - D) C
- 4) Who opened Nick Tahou's?
 - A) John Tahou
 - B) Michael Tahou
 - C) Alex Tahou
 - D) Nick Tahou
- 5) Who purchased the War Memorial Building?
 - A) George Thompson
 - B) George Eastman
 - C) Peter John
 - D) Alex Putt
- 6) When were chemicals spilled by the Diaz Company?
 - A) January 2002
 - B) January 2003
 - C) February 2000
 - D) June 1997
- 7) Who started Rochester's famous 'Lilac Collection'?
 - A) Julie Roland
 - B) Mark Grays
 - C) Kathryn Andrews
 - D) John Dunbar
- 8) What decade was nick- named "the Hippie Decade?"
 - A) 1990's
 - B) 1980's
 - C) 1850's
 - D) 1960's

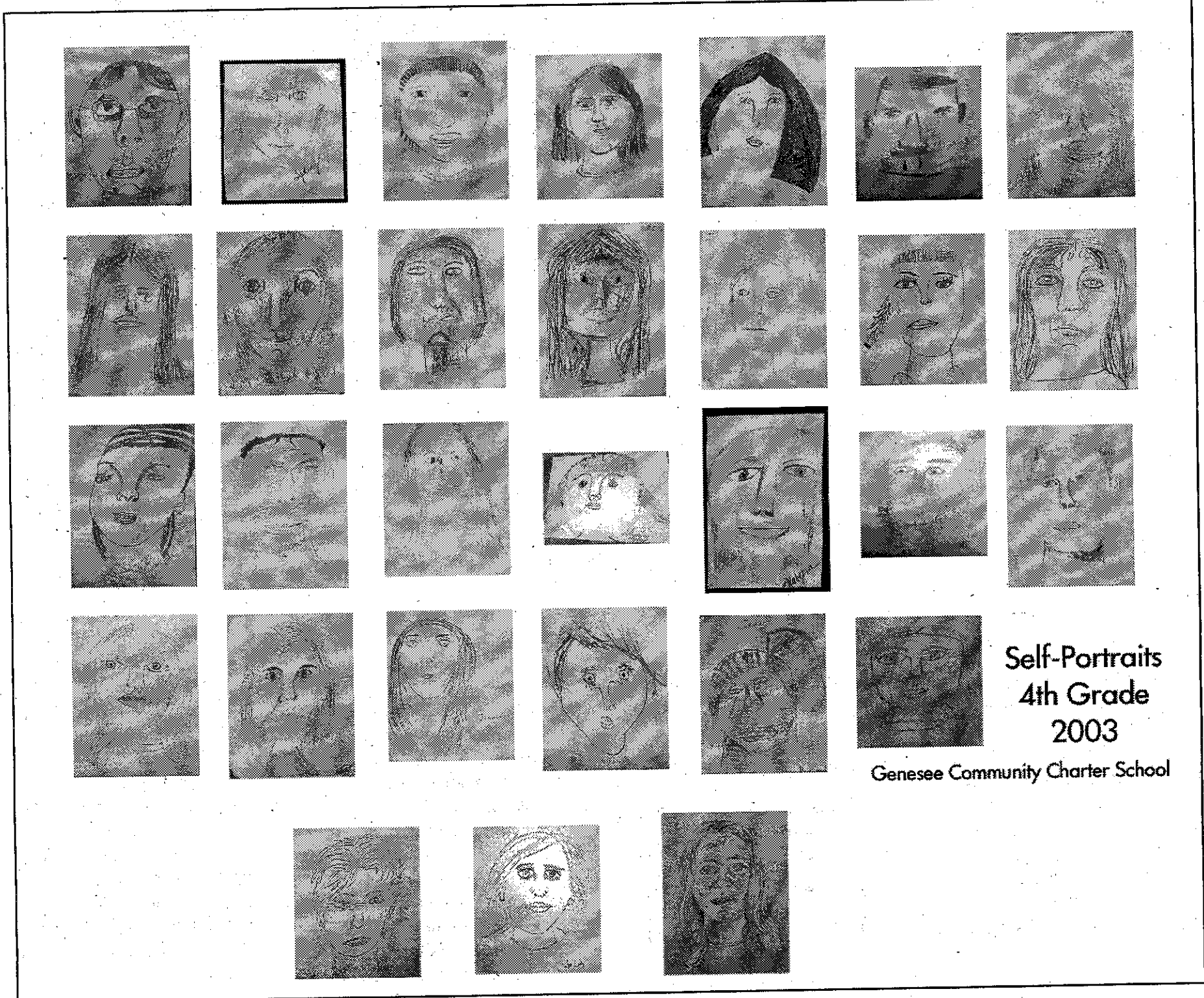
- 9) What was different about the 20th century?
 - A) cooking
 - B) learning
 - C) housing
 - D) all of the above
- 10) When did the Lilac Festival start?
 - A) 1997
 - B) 1890
 - C) 1920
 - D) 1898
- 11) When did Genesee Community Charter School first open?
 - A) August 2001
 - B) August 2002
 - C) August 2003
 - D) August 2000
- 12) When did the subway shut down?
 - A) June 1956
 - B) May 1923
 - C) April 1989
 - D) July 1947
- 13) What is the name of Rochester's women's soccer team?
 - A) Don't have one
 - B) Rhinos
 - C) Wild Cats
 - D) Ravens
- 14) When will the Rhinos new stadium ground breaking begin?
 - A) August 2003
 - B) October 2004
 - C) September 2003
 - D) June 2003
- 15) What is the biggest mall in Rochester and its surrounding towns?
 - A) Market Place
 - B) East View
 - C) Irondequoit
 - D) Midtown

Last but not
 Least Page

- 15) B
- 14) A
- 13) D
- 12) A
- 11) A
- 10) D
- 9) D
- 8) D
- 7) D
- 6) A
- 5) B
- 4) C
- 3) A
- 2) C
- 1) A

Answers To Paragraph Reader Quiz

Solitude and Compassion



**Self-Portraits
4th Grade
2003**

Genesee Community Charter School