

the Staunton

south side news

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Syracuse, NY
WINTER 2013-14 Issue 31 FREE

A BATTLE OF WITS

Players of all ages compete at Scholastic Chess Championship

Looking to the future

Syracuse Green Party moves forward after election

75th year

Public housing is rich in history, as residents share their memories

Working overtime

Salon owner juggles her business and college work

FRIENDLY FIVE: FREE SPIRIT





INSIDE | WINTER

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SOUTH SIDE NEWSPAPER PROJECT
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THE STAND IS BASED OUT OF THE
SOUTH SIDE COMMUNICATION CENTER
2331 SOUTH SALINA ST.
SYRACUSE , NY 13205

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THE PUBLICATION'S EDITORIAL PURPOSE AND
IN KEEPING WITH COMMUNITY STANDARDS.

⑥ **FEATURES** | Find out what the PEACE Southside Family Resource Center is doing to bring holiday cheer back to the area.

⑧ **YOUTH** | View a photo gallery of young chess players who competed in the 2013 Onondaga County Scholastic Chess Championship in November.

⑩ **COMMUNITY** | Check out the work of the Onondaga Earth Corps, which is planting hundreds of trees to prevent pollution and to educate young community members.

⑫ **COMMUNITY** | The Syracuse Housing Authority's accomplishments are remembered as the organization comes up on its 75th anniversary.

⑯ **ENTERTAINMENT** | Seth Dollar has a story to tell in his album, "It's Only Right," which is scheduled to make its debut in December.

⑯ **COMMUNITY** | Howie Hawkins and the Syracuse Green Party are looking ahead after the most recent election. Find out what it plans to do moving forward.

⑳ **ENTERTAINMENT** | Kevin Stephens draws on his spiritual and musical background as the lead singer and frontman for his group, Minister Stephens and Free Spirit.

㉑ **FEATURES** | Find out why Monique Gaulden, of Mo's Touch Inc. hair salon, describes herself as "geek and chic."

■ Cover photography of Abby Kambhampaty by Shannon Hazlitt

CALENDAR | WINTER

What: 100 Black Men of Syracuse's sixth annual banquet

When: 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14

Where: The OnCenter, 800 S. State St.

Cost: Single admission \$65, couples \$120

For tickets: Contact 100 Black Men of Syracuse's office at (315) 443-8749 or buy online at www.100blackmensyr.org

More Info.: Syracuse Police Chief Frank Fowler will be the sole honoree at this annual fundraiser that supports the 100's mentoring, education, health/wellness and economic empowerment activities.

What: Syracuse Community Choir's Winter Solstice Concert

When: 7 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14

Where: St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 310 Montgomery St.

Cost: \$15 to \$25, paid at the door. A sliding scale is available (pay what you can) and children are free.

Contact: Call (315) 428-8151 or e-mail info@syracusecommunitychoir.org

More Info.: Features special guest Daygot Leeyos, a hip-hop artist from the Wolf Clan of the Oneida Nation.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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As I am welcomed back from maternity leave, The Stand's board also welcomes two new members.

South Siders Nathaniel Brown and Tajuana "Tae" Cerutti are our two newest board members.

Nathan has lived on the South Side for 44 years. Many may fondly know him as "Peanut" and as the founder and manager of SAMMY award-winning band Brownskin. He has even been featured in our music column, A Friendly Five, written by fellow board member Reggie Seigler. Nathan, who describes himself as a proud reader of The Stand, sought to join our team to be more involved in his community and help the paper expand its reach. He has been employed with Onondaga County for more than 20 years and currently works in the probation department as a juvenile probation officer.



Tae recently returned home after completing school in Buffalo. She enjoys working with active community members in an effort to make positive changes, which is why she joined The Stand. Her goal is to serve as a role model to her younger siblings and other youth in the South Side community. She hopes to continue getting involved in the community where she grew up, imparting her skills to help make it better while learning and growing. Tae calls The Stand a powerful tool to help tell stories that often go untold, and she hopes it will grow into an informative, multimedia movement. Tae currently works for Onondaga County in its Division of Purchase.

Just as Nathan and Tae have made a commitment to The South Side Newspaper Project, we ask our readers to make a New Year's resolution to increase their community involvement. We encourage you to join an organization or set aside a few hours each month to volunteer.

If you'd like to get more involved with The Stand or suggest story ideas, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me with your suggestions.

Ashley Kang

CALENDAR | WINTER

What: The Adventures of Rudolph
When: Saturday, Dec. 14, 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Where: The Mulroy Civic Center at OnCenter, Crouse Hinds Concert Theatre, 411 Montgomery St.
Cost: \$10 to \$19 per ticket
Contact: Call (315) 435-2121
More Info.: A holiday ballet performed by students of the Center of Ballet & Dance Arts in Syracuse.

What: 29th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration: "Pursuing the Dream: Above All Odds"
When: Sunday, Jan. 19. Doors open 4 p.m. Dinner served at 4:30 p.m.
Where: Carrier Dome, Syracuse University
Cost: \$25 for general public; \$15 for students or one meal swipe with an SU meal plan
Contact: Call (315) 443-5044 to order tickets
More Info.: Evening program with keynote speaker Freeman Hrabowski, president of the University of Maryland, begins at 5:30 p.m. It includes Unsung Hero Awards and is free and open to the public.

HOW TO CONTACT

Onondaga Free Library
4840 W. Seneca Turnpike,
Syracuse, NY 13215
(315) 492-1727

Hours

Monday – Thursday:
10 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

TEEN ACTIVITIES

Jewelry Class – Sweater Bangle Bracelets

Tuesday, Dec. 3
6:30 – 8 p.m.
Meeting Room 222

Teen Movie – *Man of Steel* (2013, PG-13)

Wednesday, Dec. 11
4 – 6:30 p.m.
Storytime Room

Junior Library Volunteers monthly meeting

Thursday, Dec. 19
7 – 8 p.m.
Meeting Room 222

TEENAGE READERS

Local library creates programs to promote youth reading for fun



> Assistant Director Alyssa Newton is in charge of young-adult services at Onondaga Free Library. | Steve Davis, Staff Photo

By | Bryan Rubin
Urban Affairs reporter

Programs like Teen Read Week help foster a love of reading among local teenagers

Officials at the Onondaga Free Library, hoping to promote a love for reading among local teenagers, embarked on a series of events to make the library a natural stop between home and school. The library ought to be a “third place,” where teens can energize their minds and find a sense of community, says Alyssa Newton, the library’s assistant director in charge of young-adult services.

“I like seeing teens using the computer space for homework, and I try to let them know they can come here when school isn’t open because my staff and I are always happy to help them,” Newton said.

With its staff’s initiative to help, the library wants to become a free or inexpensive place outside the home or workplace where community life can be fostered. The term “third place,” coined by author Ray Oldenburg,

was the main focus of his 1989 book, “The Great Good Place,” about the importance of gathering places in community life.

This fall, the library sponsored Teen Read Week, a national adolescent literacy initiative created by the Young Adult Library Association. The program, which ran from Oct. 13 to Oct. 19 on the branch’s second floor, contained an exhibition of books pertaining to this year’s theme of “Seek the Unknown.” Teens were encouraged to read and check out these books as they explored and learned about the unknown through mystery, adventure, science fiction and fantasy literature.

Newton felt adolescents were becoming overlooked at the branch, which provides story time for young children and a book club for adults. “It’s very easy for us to focus on the programs we provide for kids and adults, but teens are sometimes left out of the equation,” Newton said. “Teen Read Week was about teaching teens how to be regular library users.”

Teens are often preoccupied with school, sports and other extracurricular activities, so it can be difficult to get

them into the library to read for pleasure, said library staff members. Newton hopes the program has ignited teens' undiscovered passion for reading.

Teens had an opportunity to write book reviews and vote in the Teens' Top Ten yearlong campaign on the American Library Association website. "We wanted to figure out what books they like to read and for their voices to be heard," Newton said.

Teens' Top Ten is created by teens nationwide. Starting each April, teens nominate 25 books for the list, and the American Library Association encourages teens across the country to read them over the summer and vote on their favorites, said Nichole O'Connor, the association's program officer for events and conferences. After Teen Read Week, the association announces the winning 10 titles that get the most votes.

During Teen Read Week, the Young Adult Library Association held a Twitter chat for librarians to discuss the importance of teen literacy. "The chat provided them a place to talk with other librarians and find out the best ways to encourage teens in their library to start reading for the fun of it," said Jaclyn Finneke, the association's manager of communications. With over 20,000 Twitter followers, the association wants to reach a broad audience of librarians and be a teen literacy resource for them, library staff members said.

Whether teens go to the Onondaga Free Library or another branch, library officials hope Teen Read Week will have prompted them to make reading part of their daily routine.

"We have a lot of books and resources we can provide for teens," said Paschal Ugoji, the young-adult librarian at Beauchamp Branch Library. "We are here to support teens and make the library a fun and safe place for them."

Do you need help with your breast cancer bills?

The Saint Agatha Foundation has established funds at area hospitals and medical providers to provide financial support for breast cancer patients in Onondaga, Cortland, Cayuga, Madison, Oneida, and Oswego Counties, New York.

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Syracuse University joined with many local partners to make this vital resource a reality. To learn more, including how to become a co-op member, contact the Eat to Live Food Cooperative, 2323 South Salina Street, by phone at **315.430.9828**, or e-mail shirleyrowser@hotmail.com.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY: Scholarship in Action



PARTY DETAILS

Last year was the first time the PEACE Family Resource Center held "Southside's Night with Santa."

What was supposed to be a night for 15 children registered in the center's programs quickly escalated into an unexpected gathering of 40 people — parents and children — who had heard about the festivities.

Lori Covington did not have enough food, drinks and presents on hand for 40 people, so she quickly arranged for the pizza to be cut into smaller slices and for more presents to be bought and wrapped. She says whether people are registered with the center or not, she is not going to turn them away.

The privilege of taking the photos was given to 14-year-old Marquel Johnson, a child who was registered at the center. Johnson — who loves photography — was equipped with a Nikon camera and tripod the entire night.

THIS YEAR'S DATE

The event this year is being planned for the week before Christmas, although a date had not been set when this issue of The Stand went to print.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

The South Side welcomes the Christmas season with a celebration



> Children and their parents pose for a group photo at the first Christmas party at the center in 2012. | Photo Provided

By | Shannon Rosenberg
Staff reporter

PEACE Southside Family Resource Center holds second annual Christmas party

This time of year, the PEACE Southside Family Resource Center Inc., is not just about programs. It's about presents.

The small, two-story building, which is located at 136 Dr. Martin Luther King West, houses two programs: an after-school care program, and Project Connection, a respite program for children with mental disabilities.

But this year the center also has plans for its second annual Christmas celebration, which staff members say made a lasting impression on children and families who attended the event last year.

Lori Covington, coordinator at the Southside Family Resource Center, said she feels that the South Side has slowly been losing its holiday tradition over the years, and with it a sense of togetherness and community.

"I don't see anything other than the annual tree lighting exhibit around here anymore," Covington said. "We used to have the Sears Christmas decorations right

around the corner, which were extremely popular in the '60s and '70s. You can still see remnants of where the auxiliary store used to be. People would come from all over the city and even outside the city to see the Sears Christmas."

Covington believes holiday traditions have more of an effect on children than people think, which is why her Christmas event has become so important to her and the staff. She says that for children, seeing Santa Claus, decorating the tree and opening gifts instills hope.

"That's what this generation is missing, that spirit," Covington said. "They used to make the South Side feel like you were at the North Pole. We used to have Cooper Decorations where Coyne used to be. The whole corner used to be lit up with holiday spirit. Within the last three decades you don't see the spirit we grew up with."

Michelle Coss, 25, a family support assistant with Project Connection, says because Christmas traditions have dwindled and many families cannot afford the holiday decorations and festivities, the center's holiday event is even more important.

"My favorite part was opening the presents," said Tatjyana Verhage, 11, a child who is registered in the center's after-school care program. "All of my friends had

so much fun, and we're all really excited for it this year. Christmas is my favorite holiday."

Children were able to sit with Santa and have their photo taken with him. As the photos were being taken, many of the parents wanted to join. For three of the families, it was their only family photo ever.

Covington says that the parents who accompanied their children had just as much fun.

"Parents will bring their family photo with Santa in and show it to me, telling me they still have it and that they've framed it," Covington said. "It's so nice to see, and it's heartwarming to know just a photo could have such an effect on them."

Aldean Williams, 58, attended with her three grandchildren — two boys ages 5 and 13, and one girl age 7. She says the event allowed families to embrace the holiday spirit without stress or worry.

"Everyone was overjoyed to be there, and their happiness showed that the event gave them something they had been missing," Williams said. "Many of these kids don't get to experience decorating a Christmas tree or getting a present. It let them see the holidays in a new light."

Covington called last year's event "perfect." She hopes to repeat the experience this year.

"Every family deserves to enjoy the holiday season," she said. "We just want to keep making that possible."

Covington says events like this help with image and reputation.

"We are about our families, our community," Covington said. "There are so many people in this community that have done so much here. You never see or hear about them. But let there be one incident of negativity (and) it's in the news."

The PEACE center looks at the event as an opportunity to give back to the children and to support family values.

"Parents are so busy nowadays and because it's a tough economy people are working extra hard to support their families," Coss said. "They don't have time or money to prepare for the holidays."

Covington and the staff members are expecting an even bigger crowd this year and they will be promoting the event to the community by putting out fliers.

The event is being planned for the week before Christmas, although a date had not been set when this issue of *The Stand* went to print.

No one is more excited than the children.

"The kids have already been asking around and trying to find out more information about it," Coss said. "While they may think they have a good idea of what's going to happen, Lori loves to throw surprises in."

Covington says the expression on the children's faces as they unwrap their presents is the same expression she saw on people's faces when she stood outside the White House for President Obama's inauguration — hope.



> Lori Covington, of the PEACE Southside Family Resource Center, hugs Tatjyana Verhage, 11, who is in the center's after-school care program. Covington is coordinator at the center. | Shannon Rosenberg, Staff Photo

SOUTHSIDE CENTER

The Southside Family Resource Center is one of seven PEACE Inc. resource centers in central New York.

Location

136 Dr. Martin Luther King West (formerly West Castle Street)

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The after-school care program accepts children ages 5 – 14

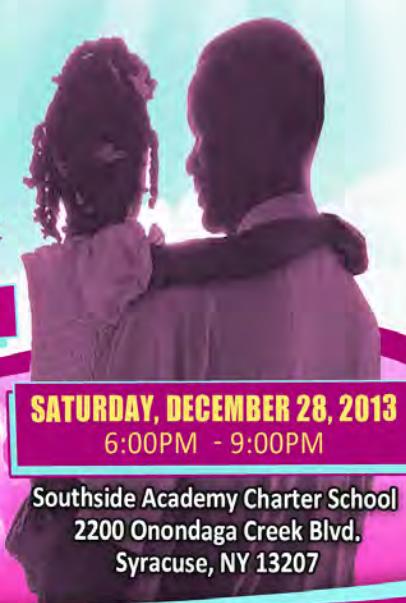
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> Caleb Smith (left, in scout uniform), a fourth-grader at Jamesville Elementary School, competes against Gene Balian, a third-grader at Fayetteville Elementary School.

CHESS MATES

Students compete during annual tournament

By | Shannon Hazlitt
Staff photographer

Southside Charter Academy attracts children for a competitive game of chess on a Sunday afternoon

The 2013 Onondaga County Scholastic Chess Championship brought together parents and children from schools throughout Syracuse and as far away as Buffalo on a rainy Sunday. The tournament was held Sunday, Nov. 17, in the gym of the Southside Charter Academy. There were three age groups competing in the tournament.

The event attracted more players than usual, according to Anton Ninno, who is the chess adviser at the Southside Charter Academy. He said that there were 63 contestants in total.

"I haven't seen a tournament this big in 10 years," Ninno said.

Increased publicity helped make the event more popular this year, Ninno said. Robert Nasiff, of Syracuse, served as the tournament director.

All photos by Shannon Hazlitt



> Abby Kambhampaty, a fifth-grader at Jamesville DeWitt Elementary School, holds the trophy she received for her performance in her age division.



> Natalie Storie, a fifth-grader at Manlius Pebble Hill School in DeWitt, concentrates during her match.



> Gabby, a third-grader at the Southside Charter Academy, with her brother Andrew Bloomfield, 12, who goes to Gillette Middle School. Both competed in the tournament, but in different age groups.



> Thather Thomas, a second-grader at Jamesville Elementary School, takes a rest with his mother, Melissa.



> Rafael Jennings, a Manlius Pebble Hill School student, studies the board.



> Toby Thompson, 4, poses with his father, Clark.



> Jade Regner is a fifth-grader at the Southside Charter Academy.



> Laim Qui, a second-grader, with his father, Yiwei Qui, from Manlius.

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CLEAN TREES

Planting program prevents pollution

By | Joe Infantino
Urban Affairs reporter

Save the Rain Tree Planting Program will plant 8,500 trees by 2018 to educate the young community about living green

The South Side has gotten a little greener as a local environmental organization has planted about 700 trees throughout the neighborhood.

Over the past two months, The Onondaga Earth Corps planted the trees to absorb and prevent storm water from carrying pollution into local bodies of water, said Keenan Lewis, the group's youth program coordinator. The Earth Corps is a small branch of the Save the Rain initiative, a public program whose mission is to find creative solutions to prevent any further pollution of Onondaga Lake, which used to be recognized as one of the most polluted in the entire U.S.

But Lewis said he hopes to accomplish more than just a clean neighborhood. He said it is also an opportunity to educate young community members to build an environmentally conscious foundation for them to use in the future.

"If we give kids knowledge to understand the environment, it accomplishes two things. One, it puts the city in good hands. Two, it keeps kids off the street," Lewis said.

The trees on the South Side are part of the Save the Rain Tree Planting Program, which is a collaborative effort between neighborhoods to plant 8,500 trees by 2018. The South Side's new trees constitute about 1 percent of the goal.

Save the Rain came to fruition after Onondaga County was sued under the Clean Water Act. Consequently, in 1989 the county agreed to cease dumping into Onondaga Lake, and in 1998, the county worked out a plan to contain sewage overflows into the lake.

While the program is the result of an amended consent judgment and is administered by Onondaga County, other programs like the Onondaga Environmental Institute help grow these programs. The institute is an organization that advances environmental research and restoration in Central New York, and works to prevent combined sewage overflows, which threaten the city when it rains, said Molly Farrell, a staff member at the institute.

Syracuse has a combined sewer system, meaning wastewater from homes and businesses, and storm water from street drains flow through a single pipe system to a water pollution control plant. In the event of heavy rain, the water flow exceeds the capacity of the pipes and overflows into nearby streams, rivers and lakes. The polluted water — also known as greywater — has harmful effects on the environment, Farrell said.

To impose a more affordable solution than replacing the sewer system, the institute collaborated with local organizations like the Environmental Finance Center, which provides asset management and budgeting tools for achieving sustainability, and the Southside Interfaith Community Development Corporation, which works to create a higher quality of life for residents in the South Side. This resulted in green infrastructure, which has been gradually integrated into residential areas.

"Cities are a problem because in them you find brick, concrete, trash and



> The planting of hundreds of trees will help the environment and also be used as a way to educate young members of the community. | Photo Provided

other pollutants,” said Amy Samuels, education and outreach coordinator of the Onondaga Environmental Institute. “On top of that, houses have their own construction debris and waste.”

The most effective way to decrease overflow, Farrell said, is to absorb the excess water before it has the chance to merge with the sewage contents. To do that, water-absorbing infrastructure needs to be planted at the source. And the sources in this case are residences where water runoff accumulates quickly.

“The more industrial a place is, or lived on, the more waste there is going to be,” Farrell said.

The solutions that environmental organizations have been implementing are things like planting trees, rain gardens — dug out areas inhabited by native plants that absorb water from impermeable sources — and roof gardens, which act as a way to slow rain runoff from roofs. In addition, there are rain barrels and porous pavement, all systems to prevent the runoff from picking up speed and eroding property, flooding and carrying pollutants to lakes.

The Onondaga Environmental Institute is currently planting these water-absorbent and eco-friendly infrastructures in residential areas, often in the backyards of houses owned by people willing to let the staff give tours on the property.

Wider-sweeping measures are also being implemented to expand the institute’s reach. Samuels said there are more “green-street makeovers” happening in Syracuse’s neighborhoods. The makeover’s goal is to fill the entire length of certain streets with green infrastructure that will collect, divert and even reuse storm water.

Save The Rain's TOP FIVE MOST-PLANTED TREES

- 65 Syringa reticulata: Up to 30 feet tall with white flowers.
- 60 Koelreuteria paniculata: Up to 23 feet tall with yellow flowers and four petals.
- 54 Ulmus x hybrid: Up to 43 feet tall with four-inch leaves that have a yellowish autumn color.
- 53 Celtis occidentalis: Average of 50 feet tall but can grow as high as 130 feet.
- 51 Gingko biloba: Up to 115 feet tall with fan-shaped leaves that turn bright yellow during autumn.

– Numbers of trees are as of the end of 2012



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THROUGH THE YEARS

SHA housing sites date back to 1938, with each development opening in the following years:

1938

Pioneer Homes

1954

James Geddes
(Rowhouses)

1963

Almus Olver Towers
Central Village

1973

Vinette Towers

1974

Ross Towers

1984

Benderson Heights

1988

Eastwood Heights
Fahey Court

1987

McKinney Manor

1997

Eastwood Homes

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Syracuse Housing Authority celebrates 75th anniversary



> Pioneer Homes, located at 116 Radisson Court, is one of the nine asset management programs run through Syracuse Housing Authority. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

By | Madina Toure
Staff reporter

Residents of public housing developments reflect on Syracuse's changing neighborhoods

When Wylene Bass first moved into Pioneer Homes with her family more than 50 years ago, it was more than just good service that attracted her: It was the way people treated her.

After growing up in Edison, Ga., where overt racism was still a fact of life, she was shocked to find a place where her skin color didn't often come with a measure of disrespect and mistreatment.

"They say, 'Hi, Ms. Bass,' they throw up the hand at you," Bass said. "Them down South, if they spoke to you, it was in a cuss word and they called you a n-----. They treated you like dirt."

Bass has lived in Almus Olver Towers for nearly three years now, another Syracuse Housing Authority site. A couple of months shy of the SHA's 75th anniversary, Bass — now 95 years old — still thinks fondly of

her time at Pioneer Homes.

"It's been good. You know, I can say this with open heart: I have been blessed living in Syracuse Housing here," Bass said. "I got a lot of friends in here and nobody bothered me and I didn't bother them, and we all have been friends."

SHA will be hosting a 75th anniversary gala event at the Syracuse Oncenter on April 4, 2014, at 5 p.m. to celebrate SHA's accomplishments as well as current and former tenants.

Located at 516 Burt St., the Syracuse Housing Authority is a public benefit corporation founded in 1938 that owns and manages 15 housing developments with more than 2,500 apartments as well as 3,600 housing choice vouchers — as part of the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher. This is a federally funded program in which part of the tenant's rent is subsidized and paid directly to the property owner.

SHA currently offers nine public housing developments, now known as asset management programs — Almus Olver Towers, Benderson Heights, Fahey Court,

James Geddes Rowhouses, McKinney Manor, Pioneer Homes, Ross Towers, Toomey Abbott Towers and Vinette Towers. Half of the residents are seniors and disabled individuals, while the other half are families.

"We play a role in trying to create opportunities for families to get employment, higher education and those kinds of training opportunities to be a part of self-sufficiency and an opportunity to get a leg up and move on," said Bill Simmons, SHA's executive director.

Fifty-five percent of SHA's budget, roughly \$40 million, is funded by a subsidy provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The remainder of the budget comes from the rent that residents in the nine public housing developments pay.

The passage of the Brooke Amendment to the Housing Act of 1937 by the U.S. Congress authorized the use of subsidies in public housing, meaning that residents would pay a percentage of their income for rent and the rest would be subsidized.

Pioneer Homes was one of the first of five public housing developments in the United States. Construction began in 1938, and the complex was built and fully occupied by 1940.

Pioneer Homes was a young development when Clarence Dunham, 79, moved there around 1943, at the age of 9. At that time, blacks mostly lived from Monroe Street to Jackson Street. In the 1930s and 1940s, Dunham said, there were no more than 4,000 blacks in Syracuse.

"Back then, all the blacks lived near each other," Dunham said. "That's how everybody knew each other. And blacks could only rent in certain parts of the city, so that's why they ended up in the 15th Ward, because whites wouldn't rent to them on the East Side, on the North Side, on the West Side or the South Side."

Moving to Pioneer Homes was a pleasure for Dunham, whose family previously lived in a cold-water flat. Rent was only \$18 a month. In their previous apartment, they had two bedrooms. He and his sisters shared a room and his mother would sleep in the other.

"My mother didn't have to handle wood and coal anymore to cook because she had a gas stove," Dunham said. "She didn't have to get ice to put in the ice box because we had a refrigerator."

In the 1960s, an organization called Urban Renewal that was set up in Syracuse to revitalize city areas signaled the demise of the 15th Ward. The segment of the city that was predominantly African-American was destroyed with the arrival of Interstate 81.

David Rufus, 55, was living in the 15th Ward with his family at the time. Many African-Americans migrated north for jobs. For example, his father became a truck driver and his uncle worked in real estate.

"We were a product of urban renewal," Rufus said.

Continued on Page 14



> Wylene Bass, 95, moved to Almus Olver Towers, at 300 Burt St., after living in Pioneer Homes for more than 50 years. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo



> Franklin Jones, 57, grew up in Pioneer Homes with his mother, Wylene Bass, and his family. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo



> Clarence "Junie" Dunham, 79, lived in Pioneer Homes for about 12 years when the complex was still a very new public housing development. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

MONEY MATTERS

For the current fiscal year of July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014, the expenses for public housing are \$16.2 million.

The revenue is just shy of \$16.5 million: \$8.1 million in operating subsidy; \$7.3 million in tenant-paid rent; and another \$1 million or so in other income.

Separately, the Section 8 program — Housing Choice Voucher — accounts for \$20 million in subsidies that supplement the tenant-paid rent.

SHARED SPACES

Public housing developments for families:

Central Village
Pioneer Homes
James Geddes (Rowhouses)
Benderson Heights

Scattered sites (90 units of public housing in various parts of the city)

Eastwood Homes

Public housing developments for the elderly:

Almus Olver Towers
Toomey Abbott Towers
Ross Towers
Fahey Court
James Geddes (High-rise)
Eastwood Heights



> Half of the residents in Syracuse Housing Authority sites are elderly or disabled, while the other half are families. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

Continued from Page 13

"When they came through with 81 they changed the composition of the community. ... People were forced out of their houses and into public housing. They sort of destroyed the neighborhoods."

Wylene Bass' son, Franklin Jones, 57, remembers Pioneer Homes for its family atmosphere. There were block parties and cookouts in just about every court of Pioneer Homes.

"It was like a family. Everybody, from the workers to the people that lived here," Jones said. "Everybody knew everybody. Even down to the mailman, he used to go from houses to houses and have coffee with certain people. And he knew every kid in the neighborhood."

A number of people, such as Laura Blackshire, were very active in political movements, fighting for the rights of tenants in the complex, Jones said.

"There's been so many people that fought for different rights for people in this complex and Pioneer Homes in general, to make it like it was," he said.

The Citywide Council of Low-Income Housing Residents was formed in 1975 as the union of the 12 tenant organizations for each of the public housing developments then. The organizations worked on behalf of the residents, dealing with issues such as quality of life.

David Rufus' mother, Ruby Rufus, 86, was an active leader in the Central Village community. She served as vice president of the Central Village Tenant Organization and became president in 1978, a position she held until 2002. She also served as vice chairwoman of the Citywide Council of Low-Income Housing Residents for family housing as well as a commissioner for SHA's board.

Her accomplishments include a citywide talent show for individuals living in Central Village, the naming of McKinney Manor after former City Judge Langston McKinney, Syracuse's first African-American judge, and the building of Benderson Heights.

With the passage of time, Ruby Rufus struggles to remember the exact details of her many accomplishments. But she sees it as her doing her job. "That's what I

was. I really did my part, all of that," she said.

She remembers receiving good service. "I loved living in Central Village because I moved from one place to another. When one place would get too small, I moved in another place," she said.

David Rufus worked for SHA from 1976 to 2005. He was the chairperson of the Citywide Council from 1986 to 1990. He also worked as a youth marshal, youth center director and youth services director.

As chairperson of the Citywide Council, he helped negotiate the Syracuse University Co-generation Scholarship in the 1980s, a scholarship for students in the university community bounded by South Salina Street, East Castle Street, Renwick Avenue and East Adams Street.

Growing up in Central Village was good, David Rufus said. In the 1970s, there were programs for youth such as baseball, kickball, softball and basketball games. "Public housing provided a recreational environment for young people in the neighborhood," he said.

He also witnessed the Black Power movement in the late 1960s, noting the riots in public housing when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968.

The current SHA administration provides seniors

with good services, such as arts and crafts and daycare, and the social workers go "above and beyond in their duties," Jones said.

Not as many workers know all the residents, as was the case in the past, he said, but the workers still do their jobs well.

"The workers here now, they're OK, they're not like they used to be, but that's only because it's a different time," he continued. "But they do their job. A lot of them do their job and they do it excellent. There's really not too much you can complain about."

But a major shift from when he was a young boy, Jones said, is that the complex is not as safe.

"There is all this shooting and stabbing and cutting now," he said. "You didn't hear about that when I was growing up here. I always felt safe no matter where I went in this project. I knew that there was somebody that knew me or knew my mother."

For Bass, she continues to be greeted warmly by residents and SHA workers alike.

"As long as I've been here, and I've been in here ever since my son was 5 1/2 years old," she said. "I don't care how far they see me, they're waving. 'Hey, Ms. B!' They call me Ms. B. I'd say, 'Hi.'"



> Bill Simmons has served as the executive director of the Syracuse Housing Authority since 2006. Ruby Rufus, 86, lived in Central Village from 1959 to 2010. From 1974 to 2002, her responsibilities included serving as president and vice president of the Central Village Tenant Organization and the Citywide Council of Low-Income Housing Residents. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Syracuse Housing Authority units as of Sept. 1, 2013:

2,245 total units were occupied.

105 units were unoccupied.

ON THE SIDE

DOLLAR'S MINDSET

Since Seth Dollar began his hip-hop career four years ago, his passion hasn't faltered. What has changed is his philosophy: He's not modeling his career after anyone.

"You always have heroes when you're younger," he said. "I can be my own hero. Whoever else is coming up, I can be their hero."

HIS OWN HERO

Seth Dollar hopes to transfer to SU to pursue his music career



> Seth Dollar has been working on his 14-track album since 2011. It is set to debut in December 2013. | Photo provided

By | Joey Cosco
Urban Affairs reporter

Seth Colton, better known as Seth Dollar, is a local rapper, determined to make it big

Nearly four years ago, aspiring hip-hop artist Seth Dollar talked about his career goals, hip-hop, and thoughts about high school, in an interview with The Stand. He was 16 then, a student at William Nottingham High School.

"That kid doesn't exist anymore," Dollar said with a chuckle. Today he wants to make it in hip-hop more than ever, and has plans to transfer to Syracuse University's School of Visual and Performing Arts after the fall semester at Onondaga Community College. He's carving his own path into the hip-hop world now.

Dollar, whose given name is Seth Colton, turned 20 in June and plans to release his newest album, "It's Only Right," in December 2013. The album will draw from his recent experiences in young adulthood, Dollar said. He's planning to tell one story over 14 tracks so listeners will need to hear the whole album to fully understand the message.

Dollar began drafting lyrics for "It's Only Right" in 2011, with plans to finish it for a 2012 release. But he said that summer, when he visited his brother in Miami

and played him the entire record, his brother gave it a lukewarm response. "He didn't appreciate it," the young rapper said. "The music was good, but the overall message didn't equate." So Dollar kept a few elements from that version of the album but largely started over with the project.

Dollar recorded most of the album in the audio suites of Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Dollar said he and Traevon Robinson, his friend and sound engineer, like to work in the older of the two Newhouse studios. With the lights dimmed, the two spend weekend evenings over Chinese food and a sound mixing board working on their music. Their two voices are the only ones on the coming-of-age album, Dollar said.

Marcelle Haddix, a Syracuse University School of Education professor, first met Dollar while she ran an after-school writing program at William Nottingham High School when Dollar was a sophomore.

"He has a strong voice and message," Haddix said. "That is important."

Though Haddix acknowledges that she is older than Dollar's intended audience, she appreciates his passion about his work.

Dollar looks to Haddix as a role model. "You've got to keep people with Ph.D.s around," he said, explaining

that Haddix worked hard to achieve her degree. Dollar said at some point, he hopes to be the equivalent in the hip-hop world.

"You get support with them and you can do anything," Dollar said.

For Dollar, support is everything, though he said it's been difficult to gain and maintain throughout his young career.

"I feel like our town looks down on Syracuse music," he said. "We're already compared to people who are star status. I think that's kind of ignorant."

Robinson agreed, saying that friends who grew up together have a hard time looking at their old friends as artists, especially successful ones. Dollar said, "You have to involve the people. It's almost like the town has to be your wingman before you win over America." As a part of that, Dollar has expanded his creative reach beyond music.

In 2011, Dollar, Robinson and another friend launched Children of the Summer, a clothing brand name that Dollar said he hopes to build into a broader "lifestyle brand." Now the brand has merchandise in J. Michael Shoes and will distribute "It's Only Right" through its website.

J. Michael Manager Erik Hicks said he is often approached with student projects, but only about one in 10 makes it into the store, located at 173 Marshall St. There, he said, some can sell quite well. "I think young people are underestimated for their fresh ideas," Hicks said.

The young hip-hop artist has also taken an interest in art, going to art galleries and drawing on different types of visual art as inspiration for his own projects. He explained the inspiration for his album's cover art came from a Steven Spielberg movie and the work of Venezuelan artist Carlos Cruz-Diez, whose work often incorporates color in a way that seems to blur the line between two and three dimensions.

"Nothing is just because," Dollar said.

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ON THE ISSUES

The Green Party is stationed at 2617 S. Salina St.

It campaigns for six major issues, and has recommended action for each one.

1. Low voter turnout:
The Greens hope to create competitive elections that represent all political perspectives.

2. Segregation by class and disparities between education and income: To mitigate segregation, the government and school districts should be restructured around centralized taxation, revenue sharing and human rights.

3. The Syracuse fiscal crisis: Revitalize the local economy with an income tax on workers who commute into the city.

GOING AND GROWING

Green Party gains support, pushes alternative third-party platform



> A voter fills out a form at Reformed Presbyterian Church. Green Party candidate Howie Hawkins received 40 percent of votes for the 4th District Common Council. Incumbent Khalid Bey won with 60 percent. | Insher Pan, Staff Photo

By | Joe Infantino
Urban Affairs reporter

Looking forward, the Green Party plans to create change to benefit South Side residents

Even if they failed to capture decisive political ground in the November elections, local Green Party politicians are pledging to push for issues such as job creation that they say will help the South Side.

“During the upcoming year, one way or another, we’re going to make the governor and the state government squirm, because they have not provided the policies that were promised, and that is why we are in a financial crisis,” said Howie Hawkins, the Green Party contender for the 4th District Common Council.

Hawkins is looking ahead at what he and the rest of his party can do to improve social and fiscal conditions in Syracuse. He campaigned for two major issues: providing aid and support to people with outstanding student loan debt, and getting city-funded jobs to city residents.

The main goal, though, is to eventually pull the South Side out of its fiscal crisis, which Hawkins describes as the high unemployment rate of residents —

even those with college degrees.

But Hawkins said the Green Party has struggled to gain traction in Central New York’s two-party government system because of what he described as little coverage in Syracuse’s major news outlets. This makes it difficult to advance the party’s goals, he said.

“It’s not just an economic crisis we have here. There is also a media crisis,” Hawkins said. “If there’s not local, yet widespread, news, people aren’t going to know what’s going on.”

During campaigns, Hawkins goes door to door, talking to any voters willing to listen. It’s a tough task, he said, because there is “no way to reach everyone.” But considering the big picture of Syracuse politics, dedicated Greens are few in number.

Among registered voters in Onondaga County, according to the Onondaga County Board of Elections, 103,893 are Democrats and 85,102 are Republicans. Together, the two parties claim the lion’s share, while Greens count just 827 voters. Yet in recent elections, Syracuse Greens have seen increased support.

People are looking for a third-party alternative, said Hawkins, who received 48 percent of the vote for a seat on the 4th District Common Council in 2011. In the

next year, Ursula Rozum, Hawkins' campaign manager, received 8 percent of the vote for her campaign in the 24th congressional district. This year, Hawkins received 40 percent for the 4th District Common Council. Khalid Bey won the seat with 60 percent and 1,471 votes.

Hawkins credits his fiscal policies with his increased popularity. And Rozum said her "person on the street" campaigning has helped make the Syracuse Greens more widely known.

Regardless of the reasons, Hawkins said he plans to change the way employers view South Side residents.

"Part of the problem is the ZIP code," he said. "This is supposed to be the ghetto, so that's a strike against the people here."

To emphasize his point, Hawkins often recounts the story of a person who couldn't get a job at a grocery store when he applied from the 13205 ZIP code. But he reapplied after getting a post office box in Liverpool and got an "immediate callback," Hawkins said.

To fix those discriminative problems, Hawkins wants to create community hiring halls, places where qualified residents who have signed up with the service are the first to be interviewed when city contractors are filling positions. He also wants to see more small businesses open in the neighborhood.

The South Side Innovation Center, whose goal is to support local entrepreneurs, has done a good job maintaining existing businesses, Hawkins said. But he wants to see the center, located at 2610 S. Salina St., introduce and create more opportunities.

But El-Java Williams Abdul-Qadir, the center's director, says the center currently acts more as a support system rather than a job creator.

"We are true incubators," Abdul-Qadir said. "We don't function on a real-estate model of rolling out company after company."

Hawkins said he also wants to see the introduction of more cooperatives, which will benefit employees and consumers. Hawkins serves as secretary of the Eat to Live Food Cooperative's board and works alongside Shirley Rowser, president of the co-op's board, who said there is truth to South Side residents wanting co-ops.

"We actually went out to the community and asked people what they wanted," Rowser said. "This is what

Syracuse Association of Retired Men Charity & Benefit Dinner



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> Despite losing the 4th District Common Council race this year, Howie Hawkins expects the Green Party to hold state government accountable. | Joe Infantino, Staff Photo

they said. They came up with lists, and cooperatives were at the top of each one."

Hawkins is going to continue campaigning because he is not one to quit, he said. He has run for city council, mayor, county executive, state comptroller, the U.S. House, U.S. Senate and New York governor, all on the Green Party ticket.

"We keep growing in our vote because people are finally figuring out it's a wasted vote to vote for the same old thing you don't want," he said. "Their faith in the two major parties is at an all-time low."

MORE ISSUES

4. Corporations that move plants to places with cheaper labor: Provide economic development assistance to locally owned firms

5. Street crime: Create opportunities for disadvantaged residents to receive a good education

6. Pollution and lack of sustainability: Economic development should consider long-term social and environmental costs.

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HOW TO BOOK THEM

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SPREAD THE WORD

Minister practices his faith by combining singing and preaching



> Kevin Stephens, the associate minister at Christ Missionary Baptist Church, serves as the lead singer and frontman for his band, Minister Kevin Stephens and Free Spirit. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

By | Reggie Seigler
A Friendly Five columnst

Kevin Stephens' church upbringing created a lifetime love of music and ministry

Kevin Stephens, now 52, grew up in church. Literally.

On Sunday mornings while many families were packing into the family station wagon to head off to a church down the road, Kevin and his 10 siblings were congregating in their living room for Sunday morning worship with their parents. His father, Bishop Jonathan Stephens Sr., was a preacher. His mother, Arnell Stephens, was a pastor.

Kevin played drums for the worship services, while his brothers Jonathan and Leonard played the guitar and steel guitar, respectively.

Their church belonged to the House of God denomination.

"The House of God is a Pentecostal Church," Kevin said. "It's similar (in doctrine) to the Church of God in Christ. One difference though, is that the House of God allows women in the pulpit," evidenced by his mother's role as pastor of their church.

Even though the church was small, there sometimes

would be as many as 10 other people attending church at his home on Sundays. "Most of them were extended family members and friends," Kevin said.

Playing in church was Kevin's first exposure to music. But around 1980, he started thinking about it a little more seriously, and he started a group. Passing off the drumming responsibility to someone else, he grasped the role of lead singer and frontman. The group was called Free Spirit. Free Spirit was a name he liked because he felt that it embraced the whole idea of giving freely of oneself according to God's will.

As the frontman, Kevin embodies that free spirit. He doesn't set any boundaries for himself. He sings, dances, shouts and gives testimonies and praises to the Lord. Sometimes he seems almost entranced.

The Rev. Fred Hintz is pastor of the Greater Love In Christ Church at 2026 Midland Ave., and has been a member of the Free Spirit ensemble for more than 10 years. "Kevin has made a lot of sacrifices of himself to bring his gift of ministry through music and performance to the people," Hintz said. "He's spent a lot of his money and his time. He has a personal commitment to sharing the Word of God."

Kevin describes his purpose. "I want to minister to the people with my music. I want people to be saved.

BEHIND THE NAME

Reggie Seigler's "A Friendly Five" column is named in memory of a singing group in which his two uncles — Mango Gray and George Gray — were members. The group was called "The Friendly Five," and his uncles moved it from Clarksdale, Miss., to Syracuse in the 1950s.



> Kevin Stephens, who plays the drums, has recorded five CDs and a video. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

I want them to know that what I have for me they can have, too. I always ask God to use me to help lead His people to the door of salvation."

These desires to help save others led him to answer his calling in the year 2000. That's when Kevin became a minister, as his parents and many of his siblings had done before him. He then changed the name of his group to

Minister Stephens and Free Spirit.

Kevin is now an associate minister at Christ Missionary Baptist Church at 319 W. Kennedy St. The pastor there is Rev. Lessley Gilmore.

"Minister Stephens plays drums and keyboards at the church," Gilmore said. "He also preaches about once every other month. He is very involved with bible study and is an obedient servant who is committed to building the Kingdom of God."

Kevin has recorded five CDs and a live video since he started his group. He is especially proud of his latest CD, which includes a remake of his original song, "Just My Salvation." He hopes the new CD and video will help him to secure a spot on Bobby Jones' nationally televised gospel program. He views performing on the show as an opportunity to share his ministry with a wider audience.

The members of the Free Spirit group are James Patterson, vocals; Rev. Grady Kemp, vocals; Rev. Fred Hintz, guitar and vocals; Brendon Stephens, who is Kevin's nephew, drums; and Dee Caldwell, keyboards.

Kevin left me with a few words of wisdom. "In whatever you do, give it your all. Stick to it and do it with sincerity and faith in God."

*Have a Friendly Five suggestion? Contact Reggie at
reggie@softspokenband.com or (315) 479-9620*

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ABOUT GAULDEN

After Monique Gaulden graduates from Onondaga Community College, she will pursue her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering technology at Rochester Institute of Technology. She also hopes to start her own product line. And she and her fiancé are planning to get married next year.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

According to the OCC website:

Electrical engineering technologists work with engineers on design, modern manufacturing methods, research and development.

The A.A.S. degree in electrical engineering technology from OCC allows students to pursue a career in the field or pursue a bachelor's degree. Career options include design, manufacturing, sales, service, electronics, communications and power.

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The program is accredited by the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology.

A 'GEEK' WITH STYLE

Hairstylist runs Mo's Touch by day and studies engineering by night



> Monique Gaulden, 29, does the hair of Tawnya Montgomery, 49, who is a claims examiner and realty worker. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

By | Madina Toure
Staff reporter

When Monique Gaulden took over the salon from her mother, she also took on much more

Geek and chic. It's all in a day's work — and school.

"In some ways, I can say that I'm a geek, but in some ways, I can say that I'm chic," said Monique Gaulden, who studies electrical engineering technology at Onondaga Community College. "It goes both ways. It flip-flops. I don't know what happened, but that's just how it is."

Gaulden, 29, has been pursuing her associate's degree in electrical engineering technology at Onondaga Community College since January 2012 and is set to graduate this winter. Six years ago, she took over Mo's Touch Inc., a hair salon that her mother, Brenda Jones, founded at 1216 W. Colvin St.

Gaulden's two passions keep her busy. Every week, she spends 12 to 14 hours in class and at least 40 hours at the salon — then tackles homework as soon as she gets home.

Her interests in hair styling and engineering start at home. Her mother founded the salon in 1998, and her

stepfather is a programmer for an electrical company. Her mother's father-in-law was a science teacher at Central Tech in the 1970s and at Fowler High School in the 1980s. "I could have a conversation with him (stepfather) and we can actually be on the same level and then I can go and have a conversation with my mother and we can be on the same level," Gaulden said.

Jones, 52, is still a hair stylist at Mo's Touch and characterizes her daughter this way. "She's got this stylish way about herself and yet she has this nerdy career to be an engineer," Jones said. "And she's pulled it together and she's doing a good job. And that's what makes her unique, because she's not a certain type."

Gaulden attended William Nottingham High School from 1998 to 2002. She studied electrical engineering at Morgan State University in Maryland for one year, but dropped out because of money issues. She studied at Onondaga Community College from 2003 to 2005, then left to work and support herself. She has three sisters and a brother — Cerissa, 33, Aurora, 26, Jasmine, 25, and Ernest, 22. They were born and raised on the East Side by their mother and stepfather.

Growing up, she said, she was good at math and liked it. Her face glows when she talks about her engineering courses.

"I like calculations. I like the theory behind it. Why is this and why is that?" she said.

"There's one specific equation, which is Ohm's Law. Ohm's Law will never change. 'E' equals 'I' times 'R,' and 'E' is voltage, 'I' is current, 'R' is resistance, and that's what I love about it. Ohm's law leads up to every equation that you will deal with in electronics."

Gaulden has overcome two challenges: being an African-American woman in a predominantly male field — she was the only female in her program when she first started — and being older than the average college student.

One classmate, she recalled, refused to accept that she was writing the Pythagorean Theorem correctly, even though she had taken a more advanced calculus course.

"So many people are like, 'Why are you switching your profession?' It's like, 'I'm not switching my profession, this is something I always wanted to do,'" she said. "But it seems as if I have to explain myself more, to either my professors or to my classmates, why I want to be an engineer, and I shouldn't have to do that."

Ultimately, people began to view her with respect when they realized that she knew the material.

Indeed, Gaulden is demanding of both her professors and peers — a quality that's refreshing and challenging for a professor, said Ronald Hinshaw, professor emeritus in OCC's electrical technology department and teacher in Gaulden's Power Systems I course.

"We were talking about complex power and she just said, 'I don't know what you mean by that,'" Hinshaw said. "'Can you explain it some different way?' And I did, and she said, 'Thank you.' She doesn't hesitate. If something is presented and it isn't very clear to her, she will ask you to present it a different way."

For 15 years, Gaulden worked at the salon just to make money. She began to do it more seriously because she needed a steady income to pay for college in Maryland.

"When I came home, I said, 'Ma, I was doing hair' and she said, 'OK, fine. Now you work,'" Gaulden said. "So I wasn't a shampoo girl anymore, I wasn't a prepper. I had my clients, and I was actually able to complete (a) hairstyle."

The most thrilling moment, she said, is when she does a person's hair for the first time.

"I turn them around to the mirror and they're ecstatic," she said. "They love their hair. Sometimes, they cry. I transform them into something they wanted. And I want to say I do that about 99.9 percent of the time."

The salon also has a family atmosphere since she and her mother work there together. That sometimes poses a challenge, as they must balance being personal versus professional, and also because her mother owned the business first. But they always have a good time, and

Continued on Page 24



> Donniqua Boatwright, 21, a home healthcare aide, worked at Mo's Touch with Gaulden for five years. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo



> Monique Gaulden's mother, Brenda Jones, 52, is a hair stylist at Mo's Touch. She opened the salon in 1998 and was owner of the salon until Gaulden took over in 2008. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo



> Hair products at Mo's Touch. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

ROLE MODEL

When Donniqua Boatwright, 21, a homecare aide, met Gaulden for the first time — she was 11 years old — at the Southside Church of Christ, she was intimidated. The woman standing before her, she said, was stylish and unique.

"When I first met her, she had a really, really low haircut," Boatwright said. "It was really, really low. It shaped her face really, really well. It was drastic. It was blue. That was different for me. It was different, but pretty. Very pretty."

Boatwright worked at the salon for five years and says Gaulden is more than a boss. She is a role model who has guided Boatwright through some tough decisions.

When Boatwright was pregnant with her first child, she was confused and stressed. Gaulden helped.

"She was the first person I called when I found out that I was having a baby. It was a hard time for me," Boatwright said. "She was there for me. She supported my decision on whether I was going to keep her or whether I was not going to keep her. She loves my baby."

GAULDEN'S TOUCH

Monique Gaulden does not repeat hairstyles.

She tailors styles to fit her clients' personalities and where they work, even naming the styles after her clients.

Gaulden calls her own hairstyle "The Mo."

While Gaulden seeks ideas about current trends from photo shoots and hair shows, she says her technique is distinct.

SLANTED CURLS

"My curls are slanted, so if you ever see anyone's curls, you can actually tell. They go at a diagonal when I do my curls."

NO PARTS, JUST SHINE

"I don't like parts, so none of my clients have parts in their hair. I use professional products, so everyone's hair is shiny. It has a natural shine."



> Monique Gaulden does the hair of Christina Scott, 31. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

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their mother-daughter bond sets an example for clients and their daughters, Gaulden said.

"We're human, and they see that Mo has flaws and Mo argues with her mother and Mo's mother argues with Mo, so we're human," Gaulden said.

Her mother said they need to give each other space. "Sometimes we have more customers than we have supplies in terms of sinks and dryers and stuff," Jones said. "Time management is really important to us, that we don't step on each other's toes. When we first started out, that was a challenge for us."

Gaulden typically deals with younger clients while Jones deals with older clients, Jones said. "I actually have more mature clients," she said. "It's just good to see how we work together and how we get along."

Tawnya Montgomery, 49, a claims examiner and realty worker, has been a customer at the salon since 2006. She said she appreciates how Gaulden tailors her hairstyles to personalities.

"I'm bubbly. I was a model for her at some of her hair shows, so anything she put on me, she knows I'm with it," Montgomery said. "I try different things. I like different things. I had this Mohawk that was just nice, was me. And then I had another one. My hair was red, red, red!"

Jones said she is so proud to see her daughter running the salon.

"It's more than just watching her work. It's like, 'Wow, that's my daughter and I'm so proud of her.' "



> Monique Gaulden's haircut, which she named "The Mo." | Madina Toure, Staff Photo