

the **Stand** south side news

www.mysouthsidestand.com

Syracuse, NY

Summer 2010

issue 3

FREE

WORKING THE SOIL

Local gardeners invite
Somali Bantu to plant,
harvest, learn together

A lifelong dream fulfilled

Local woman obtains patent for pill sorter she designed years ago

fun places

People swap stories
and make friends
in barber shops

Cleaning up, giving back

Police detective also runs business
that cleans local crime scenes

MAZARODDI THE MENTOR



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SOUTH SIDE INNOVATION CENTER
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OFFICE: (315) 443-8664**4** **SCHOOL AND YOUTH** | From robots to Rubik's Cubes, Project Lead the Way offers classes to Corcoran High School students who have engineering on their minds.**6** **FEATURES** | Read how a local woman fulfilled her childhood dream to invent a device for pharmacists to count pills. She has a patent and wants to get the device on the market.**7** **COMMUNITY** | Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today bridges the community with city officials in an effort to build local neighborhoods. Find out how you can get involved.**8** **COMMUNITY** | Learn how South Side Gardeners are giving the Somali Bantu community members a place to continue their traditional gardening practices.**10** **BUSINESS** | Longtime police detective Virgil Hutchinson cleans up crime scenes with his business, B-D Trauma Scene Clean, Inc., as a way to give back to his community.**11** **FEATURES** | Don't miss Syracuse Stage's photo exhibit, featuring African-American fathers with their sons, on display as part of the upcoming play "Fences."**13** **ENTERTAINMENT** | Read how rap producer Mazaroddi gives youth a place to be creative by sharing space in his South Side home studio with aspiring musicians.**14** **FEATURES** | Haircuts can lead to new friends. Learn how local barbers foster a sense of community for regulars on the South Side.

■ Cover photography from South Side gardens by Brad Horn

CALENDAR | MAY AND JUNE

What: A Night Out with U.A.D. Old School & After FX Band
When: 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, May 8
Where: Palace Theater, 2384 James St., Syracuse
Cost: \$15. Tickets can be purchased at Bergan Brothers Clothing, 328 S. Salina St., and at Salina Shoe Salon, 2809 S. Salina St.
Contact: Hollis at (315) 295-0441 or (315) 447-6649
More Info.: Event will feature a Best Dressed Contest for ladies, "old school" music and dancing. A portion of proceeds will go to: Francis House Fund, BTW Memorial Park Fund, Southside Christmas Tree Lighting Event and the Mary Nelson Youth Center**What:** Juneteenth Festival
When: Saturday, June 19
Where: Freedom Parade starts at noon at the corner of New and State streets, then down Salina Street to Clinton Square
Cost: Free and open to the public
Contact: Visit www.syracusejuneteenth.org
More Info.: Event will also feature a Kids Fun Zone, a Health Pavilion, vendors, food, entertainment, demonstrations and more. Also: Ancestral Recognition Ceremony will be held Thursday, June 17, and Gospel, Youth & Family Day will be held Friday, June 18 (see page 16 for more)

HOW TO BUY AN AD

If interested in **running an ad**, contact Ashley Hanry to request a **rate card** and discuss options by e-mailing Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or by calling (315) 443-8664. **The Stand's** rate card can also be found online at www.mysouthsidestand.com**DISCLAIMER**

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Thank you for supporting The Stand by picking up this copy and flipping through its pages. If you are new to the publication, please consider attending one of our Journalism Workshops to learn how you can get involved. The South Side Newspaper Project is here to share the stories of the South Side by listening to the voices of community members. If you want your story heard, you must take a stand and speak up.

This month, The Stand will offer an All-Day Feature Writing Workshop, which is open to everyone in the South Side community — youth and adults. Participants will have their articles published and must RSVP to me at Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or by calling (315) 443-8664.

Also scheduled this summer is a workshop in June on Finding the Writer Within and a Photography Workshop in July when Jeffrey Chapman, a world photographer, returns to lead a photo walk for South Side residents. Please contact The Stand to learn more and to sign up. Photo equipment will be available, but if you have a digital camera, please bring it.

This past month, students from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications were fortunate to hear from several community members with something to say about the South Side. The student reporters met with Common Council President Van Robinson and former Post-Standard Urban Affairs Reporter Maureen Sieh. Robinson addressed several issues of concern to small businesses, as well as the fate of I-81. Sieh suggested several story ideas to keep future reporters — as well as community correspondents — busy for months to come.

This issue features another great mix of South Side people and events. During the summer, we encourage everyone to visit The Stand's Web site at www.mysouthsidestand.com to stay updated about community news. Even though the next print issue will not be published until September, the Web site will be updated over the summer months. I look forward hearing from you.

Ashley Hanry



UPCOMING EVENTS

May 8

All-Day Feature Writing Workshop

Begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 8, at the South Side Innovation Center, 2610 S. Salina St., Syracuse. Taught by The Stand's founder, professor Steve Davis. Must RSVP to The Stand's director, Ashley Hanry: Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or by calling (315) 443-8664.

June 12

Finding the Writer Within Workshop

11 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 12, at the South Side Innovation Center, 2610 S. Salina St., Syracuse. Taught by Lynn Olcott. Free and open to the public.

CALENDAR | JULY AND AUGUST

What: South Side Film Festival

When: Every Friday evening in July

Where: Parking lot of KeyBank, the corner of South Salina and East Colvin streets

Cost: Free and open to the public

Contact: South Side Initiative Office at (315) 443-1916

More Info.: This festival brings people of all ages together for a free outdoor movie Friday evenings in July. Co-sponsored by the South Side Initiative, Visual Technologies, KeyBank and the Southside Community Coalition, the annual event features films with messages of inspiration, hope and perseverance.

What: Ninth annual Youth Day BBQ

When: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 21

Where: Corner of South Salina Street and Wood Avenue

Cost: Free, but students must register in advance and bring their June report card

Contact: Mary Nelson at (315) 422-5690 or stop by Mary Nelson's Youth Center at 2849 S. Salina St. to fill out an application

More Info.: This event helps children from preschool to college to get school supplies. Backpacks filled with school supplies will be given to each registered child. Also: Used computers will be given away.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor can be mailed to The Stand at the South Side Innovation Center, 2610 S. Salina St., Syracuse, N.Y. 13205 or e-mailed to The Stand's director, Ashley Hanry: Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com. All letters must be a maximum of 200 words and must contain the writer's full name, address and contact information.

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

This quote hangs in the classroom at Corcoran High School, where future engineering students learn, design and dream:

“Strive for perfection in everything you do. Take the best that exists and make it better. When it does not exist, design it.”

— Sir Henry Royce

LEADING THE WAY TO ENGINEERING



> Corcoran High School technology teacher Ryan Terpening, left, stands with his Principles of Engineering class. The college preparatory course is one of two currently offered by Project Lead the Way. | Robyn Stowers, Staff Photo

By | Robyn Stowers
Staff reporter

A new grant-funded program at Corcoran High School aims to inspire students to pursue engineering careers.

Project Lead the Way is a math and science college preparatory program featuring two courses that introduce high school students to the field of engineering. Students in the program are also eligible to earn up to three college credits.

“Since 75 percent of the program is hands-on, the kids get really interested to see how math and science are really used,” said technology teacher Ryan Terpening.

Class is held in the newest computer lab in the Syracuse school district. Students have access to 25 computers equipped with design software, robotic construction sets and a 3-D printer that enables students to build three-dimensional models of their designs from plastic.

“Students are continuously challenging themselves,” Terpening said. “They are teaching me a lot as we go through the process.”

Last year, students made robots that sorted marbles by color and learned how to design products using 3-D computer modeling software.

“It is so fun, it really doesn’t feel like work,” said junior AJ Lloyd, 16.

He broke open his Rubik’s Cube to figure out how it worked so he could design and program it to solve itself.

This year, Lloyd is designing a chess set that he will be able to fabricate using the 3-D printer. He plans to donate the set to an elementary school to gain his Eagle Scout Badge.

Project Lead the Way is quickly gaining popularity with Corcoran students. Since the start of the program in January 2009, participation has quintupled, from 15 to 76 students. Next year, Terpening hopes to double the involvement and diversify the program by recruiting more female students and by adding a third course.

Despite the program’s success, the federal Advance Placement Incentive Program Grant runs out in September, which will leave the school at risk of losing the engineering program. Corcoran High School is actively seeking new grants and donors for support.

When students in Terpening’s Principles of Engineering class were asked what they wanted to do after high school, more than half of the 12 students said they wanted to be engineers.

Senior Vladimir Pechenny plans to study engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology or Syracuse University in the fall.

“It’s one of those classes that you can look forward to,” Pechenny said. “I am glad I got a chance to take it before I graduate.”

for more information on PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

- Visit the Web site at <http://beta.pltw.org/>
- Contact Corcoran High School’s Ryan Terpening by sending an e-mail to rterpening@scsd.us

MAY CALENDAR

What: Wii Fun

When: 3 p.m. Fridays, May 14, 21, 28

Where: Beauchamp Library, 2111 S. Salina St.

Contact: (315) 435-3395

More info: Call the library for more May events

What: Xi Chapter of Lambda Kappa Mu

“Fences” Theater Party

When: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, May 15

Where: Syracuse Stage, 820 E. Genesee St.

Cost: \$40 for reception and play

Contact: Shirley Edge at (315) 446-4754, Shirley Bacon at (315) 469-0779 or Ruby Beal at rubybeal@hotmail.com

More Info.: Proceeds will fund Scholar Incentive Awards and community projects

What: Reception/Fundraiser Celebrating 25th anniversary of “Fences”

When: 5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 20

Where: Sutton Pavilion at Syracuse Stage,

820 E. Genesee St.

Cost: \$30 per individual and \$50 per couple. Includes admission to the reception and the 7:30 p.m. performance of “Fences”

Contact: 100 Black Men of Syracuse Inc. office at (315) 443-8749

More Info.: The reception is a fund-raising event to support 100 Black Men of Syracuse

What: Storyfest III

When: 6 p.m. Friday, May 21

Where: Ted Grace Reading Grove at Corcoran High School, 919 Glenwood Ave.

Cost: \$10 for adults, \$5 for children

Contact: Tickets may be purchased at the door, by calling (315) 383-4018 or by e-mailing tedgracereadinggrove@gmail.com

More Info.: The event will open with a dedication ceremony for the newly constructed Ted Grace Reading Grove, followed by storytelling presentations

tell us your events

If you would like to share an event with the community and have it posted online, send an e-mail to Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or call The Stand’s office at (315) 443-8664

The next print issue of The Stand will be published in September, but more events and stories will be published online. So to stay up-to-date over the summer, visit us at www.mysouthsidestand.com

In this issue, see Page 16 for events in June

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Carolyn Barrett

has ties to the South Side through her affiliation as a client of the Southwest Economic Business Resource Center at 500 W. Onondaga St.

The center, which is a program of Jubilee Homes of Syracuse, assists owners of small businesses in writing business plans, creating marketing materials and developing computer skills, according to Carolyn Evans-Dean, of the center. It also provides business and personal credit counseling, as well as general business consulting.

For more information, visit the center's Web site at <http://jubilee-homes.com>

Under the heading of Economic Development on the site, you will find information about what Evans-Dean describes as the newest project initiative — the creation of a supermarket on South Avenue.

PATENT PROMISE

Woman who invented a pill counter works to put device on the market

By | Bryan Hood
Staff reporter

Carolyn Barrett is making her idea from childhood turn into a patented reality

As a little girl growing up in Louisiana, Carolyn Barrett spent a lot of time waiting around the pharmacy with her mother.

"I'd ask when we were going to be done, and she'd say, when they were done," Barrett said.

Barrett, who was 10 at the time, asked her mother to lift her up over the counter so she could see what was taking the pharmacists so long. Then it was clear — each customer's pills had to be counted out by hand to make sure that the dosage was correct.

"I'm going to come up with a way for them to count pills faster," she recalls telling her mother that day.

Now, more than four decades later, that's exactly what Barrett is close to doing. Though it took a lot of work, Barrett was awarded a patent in 2002 for a pill counting machine. It's now being made into a model by George Mason University, outside Washington, D.C.

"She was looking for help with her invention and I'd started an inventors club, and through the club offered to help her in any way we could," said Barnabus Morgan, founder and former president of the university's Inventor's Club.

Barrett didn't actually start working to make the idea from her childhood a reality until she was in her 30s. She pursued the patent process, and received the patent for the pill counter in 2002.

The process was frustrating. Barrett worked through a corporation that was supposed to help aspiring inventors. After wasting money and seeing no results, she realized she would have to go about it herself, she said.

Barrett said she first filled out the disclosure form, then a form for a provisional patent.

Filing patent forms on her own led to Barrett being awarded a provisional patent. With the help of a patent attorney, it was finally given full patent status.

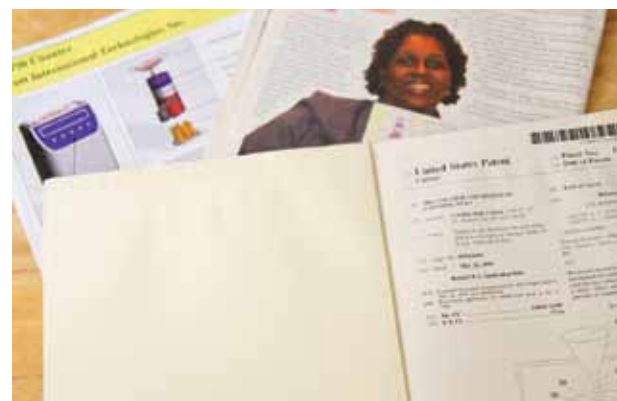
Representatives from George Mason University contacted Barrett soon after, she said. The school wanted to turn her patent into a working device to sell.

Barrett is now closer than ever to seeing her pill counter become a real product on the market. But even when George Mason University is done with the model, there will still be work to do.

"I'm looking for venture capital to come forward and invest so that I can see it on the market," she said.



>Carolyn Barrett patented a pill counter, which was featured in Trends magazine in 2007. | Steve Davis, Staff Photo



>Trends magazine and the original patent. | Steve Davis, Staff Photo



>Carolyn Barrett shows the device diagram. | Steve Davis, Staff Photo

Barrett's mother and grandmother have been gone for years now, but the promise she made to them still holds.

"I promised my mom and grandma that I was going to invent a pill counting machine when I grew up," Barrett said.

"I wanted to pursue it while they were living, but I couldn't."

TAKING PRIDE IN CITY

Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today encourages caring and participation

By | Brian Amaral
Urban Affairs reporter

Residents show up at TNT meeting to discuss neighborhood issues, show community spirit

Babette Baker recalls looking out of her South Side neighborhood home and seeing National Grid re-planting trees they already had planted. Vandals — possibly local youths — had knocked them down, Baker said.

“I went up to them and I said, ‘Have you ever thought about having the kids in the neighborhood plant those trees?’” recalled Baker, the newly appointed Tomorrow’s Neighborhoods Today coordinator. “That way, they can take some pride in it. They won’t tear it down. Those trees will grow.”

Baker has a similar vision for TNT’s South Side sector: Get the community involved and encourage its members to care, not complain.

TNT is a city agency, under the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, that helps connect community members with department heads and city officials and involves them with the planning of local neighborhoods. The election of Mayor Stephanie Miner has brought broad changes to the organization — most notably an emphasis on involving residents in direct neighborhood planning.

“TNT is a great opportunity for residents to interact with city employees,” Miner said in her State of the City address in January. “However, TNT, too, needs to evolve.”

Baker reports to Sharon Owens, a city official who oversees the neighborhood side of the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development. Baker was elevated to coordinate all eight sectors of TNT. Before, there was one coordinator for each of the city’s eight TNT districts. Now, there is just Baker, who attends every sector’s monthly meeting. The South Side sector usually meets the first Monday of every month, at the South Side Innovation Center, 2610 S. Salina St.

Although some South Side residents recently voiced concerns that Baker would have less time for their neighborhood interests, she called such fears misplaced.

“I’m from the South Side,” Baker said. “I was an original TNT facilitator [from 2000-2002]. I have a special place in my heart for the South Side.”

Some TNT groups are well-established. The East-side group, for example, has a five-year plan, committees and subcommittees, and it draws large crowds. The South Side sector, however, needs a “little bit of TLC,”



> South Side residents at the April 5 TNT meeting discuss the location of a publicly funded art project. | Brian Amaral, Staff Photo

Baker said.

That tender loving care started at the April 5 TNT meeting. The group spent much of the first 15 minutes of the meeting trying to find extra chairs, desks and tables for the unprecedented crowd that showed up. About 50 people attended, double the number who attended the March meeting.

Seven residents volunteered to become TNT facilitators, and many more signed up for public arts and five-year plan committees.

For the seven new facilitators, the city will offer training on how to run meetings smoothly and how to follow an agenda.

After the April 5 meeting, Baker was optimistic about her first one as coordinator.

“We stayed on track!” she said excitedly. “We followed the agenda.”

It was a stark departure from previous meetings, when residents aired complaints about anything from the lack of youth programs to street lights being too dim.

But more important, Baker said, was getting South Side residents to believe in their slice of Syracuse. The condition of the South Side is tough, Baker said, and she’ll be the first to admit it. But no problem is unsolvable when people get involved, when they care and when they believe that they can do something about it, she said.

The turnout April 5 was a step in the right direction, she added.

“Before we can go forward, we have to get people really caring about the South Side and believing in it.”

PUBLIC ART IN THE CITY

At the April 5 TNT meeting, residents voted on the location of new public art, at a cost of \$3,000 in city funds for art and \$3,000 in TNT money. TNT voted to put the art — the city is currently seeking an artist — at the Beauchamp Library on the corner of Colvin and South Salina streets.

ATTENDEES’ THOUGHTS

“TNT is important, only if they do what they say they’re gonna do.”

Louise Thompson

“It gives the community an opportunity to be active and engaged and to have a voice. They can see protocol, procedure, policies.”

J. Thompson

“We really need to keep the focus on the important things. This helps.”

Delores Reid

“It’s an open forum that tries to maintain structure.”

Ruthnie Angrand

Join in SOUTH SIDE TNT SECTOR MEETINGS

TNT meetings take place at 6 p.m. the first Monday of every month at the South Side Innovation Center, 2610 S. Salina St.

CULTIVATING CULTURE

Gardeners help Somalian tradition thrive by sharing South Side space



> Mable Wilson, a South Side gardener, is sharing local garden space with Somali Bantu neighbors. | Brad Horn, Staff Photo

PLANTING TRADITION

In Somalia, learning to garden is a part of growing up for every Somali Bantu child.

Culturally, children start learning to plant and cultivate around the age of 5, said Haji Adan. As they get older, they start tending to a larger and larger area of the garden plots. The goal is for parents to help their children become self-reliant by the age of 15, so they can marry and provide for a family of their own.

In Somali Bantu culture, by the time young people turn 18, they are expected to tend to their own gardens.

By | Alison Bryant
Urban Affairs reporter

South Side space will help local Somali Bantu continue an important aspect of their culture

As a boy in Somalia, Haji Adan gardened two 10-pace by 10-pace pieces of land each day. Taking care of a plot of land is the first step in the transition to adulthood in Somali Bantu culture.

That tradition stopped for Adan's family about four years ago when he moved from Somalia to the South Side because of violence in his home country.

"It's kind of hard to adjust to a new culture," said Adan, a literacy coordinator for a mothers and children English class. "When I came here, I was expecting to have my own garden, but it didn't happen."

Until now.

Mable Wilson, a South Side garden coordinator, will share gardening space with Adan and other members of the Somali Bantu community as a cross-cultural exchange of gardening techniques and community building, Wilson said.

The South Side Gardeners, a group that gardens the city plots, opened space in the Newell Street and Cannon Street gardens and the Kwanzaa Garden on Midland

Avenue and Kennedy Street, for the Somali Bantu community to farm alongside Americans, Wilson said.

"We will learn to grow food, share food and open up some type of warming dialogue between both races so that we can have a better understanding of who we are," Wilson said.

The initiative will allow Americans to connect with the Somali Bantu population in the South Side and learn how to grow a variety of new crops, Wilson said.

"We're hoping and willing to learn different ways of doing things," Wilson said. "For example, how to tie up our tomatoes differently rather than just with a long stake in the ground. It will be an open sharing of educational and cultural ways of growing different types of food."

Back in Somalia, gardening fosters good communication and respect between parent and child, Adan said. Parents teach children how to work the land to prepare them for taking care of their own land and family in the future, he said.

Since coming to the United States about four years ago, some of this respect and communication has been lost between refugees and the younger generation, Adan said. Reintroducing gardening into the culture may bring back the traditional relationships, he added.

"Having that garden will bring back some of the



> Gardeners are looking forward to sharing traditions from their two cultures as they work together. | Brad Horn, Staff Photo

respect and everything,” Adan said. “It’s kind of our way of making them do what our parents used to do back home. It’s a way of teaching the kids. Some of them were born here, so they don’t know what farming or gardening is all about.”

Adan said he hopes to grow beans, tomatoes, pumpkin, watermelon, corn and sesame. Some Somalian



> Haji Adan looks forward to gardening alongside members of the South Side community. | Alison Bryant, Staff Photo

fruits, such as mangoes and bananas, will not grow in Syracuse, he said.

About 15 Somali Bantus are interested in gardening the South Side plots, Adan said. He said he worked with Barbara Gordon, a volunteer English tutor for the Somali Bantu community, to locate and access garden space within walking distance for members of his community.

Gordon, who has been gardening organic produce with her husband for 30 years, said she knew the Somali Bantu had been looking for land to garden. When Gordon found out about Wilson and the South Side gardens, she knew she had an in.

“We sat down and it looked like it was going to be a go,” Gordon said. “She wanted to expand the gardens and have a few more people there, a better diversity and philosophically to extend the notion of growing community connections, as well as vegetables.”

Gordon said she connected Wilson with Adan, and the initiative grew from there.

Many members of the Somali Bantu community are excited to begin gardening in late April and often ask Adan about the status of the plan.

“I know we’re excited for all of us to go there,” Adan said, “but still, little by little, it has to build its nest.”

south side gardeners

POTLUCK DINNERS

Every couple of months, the South Side Gardeners host a dinner, at which Somali Bantu dress in traditional garb and share some of their dishes with their American neighbors.

“It helps us connect with other people who live in the neighborhood, the people next to our plot. Sharing culture, sharing plots and integrating into American society.”

— Haji Adan

To find out about the next potluck dinner,

contact Mable Wilson at mwilson62@twcny.rr.com

VIEWS ON VIRGIL

John Baggett used to work with Virgil Hutchinson as a recruiter in the Syracuse Police Department. Although the two now work in different departments, Baggett said he still takes advice from Hutchinson. Baggett said Hutchinson has a calm demeanor that's a good trait for his field.

"To be quite honest, he deals with situations in his business better than I would deal with it."

— John Baggett

Nebraski Carter, pastor of Living Water Church of God in Christ on the South Side, has been Virgil Hutchinson's pastor since he was a youngster. Carter said he thinks that some of the ideas Hutchinson learned from the church attracted him to work in the police department.

"He grew up in my church. He was always involved in the community, to this day, and is just a fine man."

— Nebraski Carter

CLEANING THE SCENE

After crimes, local business moves in to help restore people's homes

By | Alexandra Seltzer
Urban Affairs reporter

Cleanup team makes homes habitable again after anything from violent crimes to mold

As a longtime police detective, Virgil Hutchinson has spent countless hours investigating crime scenes. While his current police work keeps him confined to his desk for most of the day, Hutchinson spends even more time at crime scenes handling his second job: trauma scene cleanup.

"You wouldn't believe the scenes we go through. I mean the scenes that happen," Hutchinson said as his eyes widened to recount the memories. "It's tough on the family so you need someone that could first of all know how to deal with stressful situations like this."

Hutchinson is very cautious when speaking about his experiences cleaning up crime scenes because he said privacy is the most important thing he can provide to the people he helps. A 23-year veteran of the Syracuse Police Department, he often sounds like a psychologist when speaking of the effects a crime scene can have on victims' families.

He remembers a time when he responded to a family who had just experienced a violent crime in the home. The family wanted Hutchinson to clean up the blood.



> B-D Trauma Scene Clean workers tend to a scene. | File photo provided by Virgil Hutchinson

"That's where we came in," said Hutchinson, CEO of B-D Trauma Scene Clean, Inc. "We disposed of everything the right way and gave them their privacy."

Inspiration for the name of Hutchinson's business comes from his father's nickname, B-D. The name has special meaning to Hutchinson, whose father died of lung disease. The idea to start a company came through his police work before he became a detective.

"I would often hear people say, 'so when do you come back and clean this place up?'" Hutchinson said. "And so I did some research."

Hutchinson was the first tenant to house his business in the South Side Innovation Center. He said he chose the space on South Salina Street because of his concern for the city in which he was raised.

Cleaning crime scenes is something that Hutchinson takes seriously and personally. That's one reason he is hesitant to divulge too many details of his experiences.

"We don't come to the house with this big van that says, 'We clean crime scenes' or anything of that sort," Hutchinson said. "There's psychological effects that go with that."

Hutchinson said the sight of some crime scenes is sometimes hard to grasp and often takes a toll on him mentally. For that reason, he said finding people to employ is often difficult. He said he must be very selective and can tell within a few minutes during an interview whether a person has the stomach for the job.

Crime scene cleaning is just one of the jobs he and his employees provide. Some other features of B-D Trauma Scene Clean are biohazard cleaning, floor care, restoration after mold damage, and selling supplies to other companies.

Hutchinson remembers when he and his crew had to restore a house because water damage led to mold spreading throughout the whole property.

"We gutted the whole thing," Hutchinson said. "We disinfected, sterilized and placed antimicrobial agents in the house."

Whatever the situation, Hutchinson and his employees must dispose of materials "the right way," he said.

"It needs to be autoclaved," Hutchinson said, which means disposing of any remnants through a machine rather than in a large trash bin. Otherwise, he said, there is a risk of mold, hepatitis, or pathogens traveling through the air and infecting people.

"You really have to want to feel good about helping people, and that's a lot of where my background in police work comes in," Hutchinson said. "It's that good feeling you get at the end of the day."

FATHERS AND SONS

Photo exhibit at Syracuse Stage reflects theme from 'Fences'

By | Amelia Bienstock
Reporter

Roosevelt “Rick” Wright Jr. and his son sat in a photography studio for nearly three hours while photographer Brantley Carroll took more than 300 photos.

Wright, a professor at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, and his son, Rubin Wright III, posed for a photography exhibit that will be shown in conjunction with Syracuse Stage’s upcoming production of August Wilson’s “Fences.”

The play, which opens May 5, is about an African-American former ballplayer and his relationship with his talented son.

The exhibit featuring Carroll’s photographs will complement performances in the play. The photographs will be on display at Syracuse Stage.

Carroll is working with Kyle Bass, the dramaturge (a historian) at the Syracuse Stage and Carol Charles, the community engagement manager. They originally wanted athletes, but the project has grown to encompass all types and ages of fathers and sons.

Charles said she wants the project to include narratives as well.

“What I will do now is go back to the fathers and ask them to comment on fatherhood,” she said.

For Wright, talking about fatherhood comes easily. “It’s wonderful being a father, taking your son around, showing him stuff, teaching him, getting ready for life.”

After being photographed with his son, Wright said he believes that the photographer wants to portray the emotional connection between father and son.

Wright said he has always been surrounded by positive father-son relationships.

“I had a wonderful father, myself, when I grew up,” he said, adding that he is looking forward to seeing those feelings reflected in the portraits.

Charles said she is pleased with the success of the project, but there is one image that she still would like to find. Charles said she has been searching for a father and newborn boy. “Kyle has stopped people on the street, and I’ve scanned my church,” Charles said. “There are no baby boys at this church! I know people with newborn baby girls but no newborn baby boys.”

FEATURED FATHERS

What: Father-and-Son Photo Exhibit

When: Runs May 5 through 30, in conjunction with the showing of “Fences”

Where: Syracuse Stage, 820 E. Genesee St.

Contact: Call the Box Office at (315) 443-3275 or visit www.syracusestage.org



> Fred Harper, Bill Harper, Elijah Harper and William Harper are part of the photo exhibit. | Brantley Carroll, Photo



> Father Floyd Mitchell, pictured with his two sons Jared Mitchell, top, and Jaden Mitchell, is also on display as part of the photo exhibit. | Brantley Carroll, Photo

MORE ART IN MAY

What: May Art Exhibit, “The Shine from Within,” by Dwayne Frazier

When: Entire month of May
Where: Beauchamp Branch Library, 2111 S. Salina St.

Contact: Call Frazier at (315) 530-7141 or call the library at (315) 435-3395

More Info.: The collection consists of shiny artwork done with finger painting. Frazier, who has been painting since childhood, also draws cartoon characters and paints on T-shirts.

WANT TO TAKE YOUR OWN PHOTOS?

The Stand will offer a photo walk through the South Side in July led by world photographer Jeffrey Chapman. Photo equipment will be available, but if you have a digital camera, bring it along. Photos taken this day will be published in the September issue. To RSVP, e-mail Ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or call (315) 443-8664.

SAY YES TOP 10

to be eligible for No. 3 students must:

- Have been a resident of the City of Syracuse for at least three years
- Have attended 10th, 11th and 12th grades in a SCSD high school and graduate
- Apply and get into one of the Say Yes compact schools on their own merit
- File for financial aid each year and complete any additional requirements as specified by the college
- Once enrolled, successfully complete a minimum of 12 credit hours for each semester and maintain a GPA of 2.0 or better

1 Say Yes to Education is a national, non-profit foundation committed to increasing high school and college graduation rates for urban youth.

2 Say Yes provides after-school and summer camp programs, tutoring, mentoring, family outreach and engagement, social work/counseling services, financial aid counseling, referrals for health care and free legal assistance for students and families in the Syracuse City School District. The program culminates with the promise of free tuition for students who meet graduation, residency and college admissions requirements.

3 SCSD students are eligible for free tuition at one of nearly 100 colleges or universities in the Say Yes compact (see college list at www.sayyessyracuse.org) if they meet the eligibility requirement (see left side).

4 Students from families with incomes below \$75,000 are guaranteed free tuition to ANY college (private or public) on the Say Yes compact list if they meet the requirements.

5 Students from families with incomes over \$75,000 are guaranteed free tuition to all SUNY/CUNY colleges on the Say Yes compact list and to Syracuse University and Cooper Union.

6 Students from families with incomes of more than \$75,000 who are attending a Say Yes Private Compact College where they are not eligible to receive free tuition may receive the Choice Grant. The Choice Grant is up to \$5,000 per year based on the difference between other financial aid awarded and the cost of full-time tuition. Choice Grants, in addition to other financial aid awarded by the college and/or private grants/scholarships, are not to exceed the cost of full time undergraduate tuition.

7 The Say Yes to Education grant is what is known as a last dollar scholarship. By that we mean that all students are guaranteed to receive grants and scholarships in an amount that covers their tuition at an eligible school. If the grants and scholarships the student receives from federal, state, and other sources do not cover the full cost of tuition, then the student will be eligible to receive a Say Yes grant that makes up the difference.

8 Say Yes tuition grants cover tuition only, not books and fees. Say Yes offers Opportunity Grants to assist high need students (up to \$2,000 for those eligible for the maximum Federal Pell Grant), with additional costs associated with college attendance.

9 Eligible students who decide not to go to college right after graduation will remain eligible for Say Yes benefits for one academic year after their high school graduation. Therefore, if you graduated in June 2010, you are still eligible if you enroll in a Say Yes college in September 2011.

10 To find the most up-to date information about Say Yes, visit www.sayyessyracuse.org

START-UP NY

A comprehensive program to help people with low income and people with disabilities start their own businesses

Two small business development projects, Start-UP NY and PRIME, have joined to help you:

- Learn how to plan and launch your own small business
- Transform your ideas into a business reality
- Learn about and access available opportunities & resources
- Achieve entrepreneurial profitability
- Achieve independence



Eligibility for PRIME: Have a low income, be an Onondaga County resident, and have an interest in developing your own business.

Eligibility for Start-UP NY: Have a documented disability, be an Onondaga County resident, and have an interest in developing your own business.

*Note: People with disabilities meeting low-income guidelines are eligible to enroll in PRIME as well.

To participate contact:

El-Java Abdul-Qadir at
South Side Innovation Center
2610 South Salina Street
Phone: 315-443-3445

NEW PROGRAM! FREE!

*Submitted by Susan Feightner
Say Yes to Education program*

MAZARODDI'S MUSIC

Mentor helps South Side youth make music in his home studio



> Harold Jerrod Blackmon, his son, Shaheed Blackmon, and cousin, Jahdal Williams, in coat. | Alexandra Seltzer, Staff Photo

By | Alexandra Seltzer
Urban Affairs reporter

Harold Jerrod Blackmon provides a safe place for South Side youth to be creative

For many South Side youths, Harold Jerrod Blackmon's home is more than just a music studio. It is a place for them to escape the dangers of the streets and hone their musical creativity.

Blackmon, CEO of the South Side music group called Crime Street, is an award-winning producer known in the music world as Mazaroddi. "Everyone calls me Rod or Roddi Bizarre so I came up with Mazaroddi."

At 44 years old, Blackmon has two awards attached to his name. His style is in transition. Crime Street's early work deals with violence and the drug trade. He now wants to put forth a more positive message.

"It's more about what can I do to better myself and send a message to the youth of how can I be the next president," he said. "That's what I'm trying to go with."

Since Crime Street first got together, Blackmon hasn't charged members for studio time. He said he knows studio time is expensive and that many of the youngsters could not afford it. He does, however, have expectations for those hoping to use his studio. Blackmon said they must have a job or be getting an education.

Jahdal Williams, Blackmon's 21-year-old cousin, is a member of Crime Street. Williams, also known as "J-Streetz," has been in Crime Street since he was 16.

Williams said when he was younger, he would sit on the floor in the studio and watch the other members of Crime Street perform. He said he knew he wanted to be a part of the group and Blackmon gave him the chance.

"If the studio wasn't there, I probably would have taken a whole other direction," Williams said. "It kept me out of a lot on the streets."

After high school, Williams did not go to college, but Blackmon encouraged him to enroll. Blackmon said he would tell him, "You are young, go back to school."

Now Williams is in his first year at Onondaga Community College and is majoring in humanities. His love for music is still alive. His first song, "Just Me," reached No. 1 for about a year on reverbNation.com, a music marketing Web site and forum.

Blackmon has four sons — 25, 18, 14 and 10 — and he says he always talks with them to help them with their concerns. He believes times are tougher today for teens than they were when Blackmon was a teen and that his community is less cohesive.

"My grandmother used to say, 'It takes a neighborhood to raise a child,'" Blackmon said. "There was more of a community type situation back then."

AWARDS

Mazaroddi and Crime Street won the award for best hip-hop group at the Upper State Independent Awards in 2008.

Mazaroddi won the award for producer of the year at the Upper State Independent Awards in 2009.

ALBUMS

> "Hood 2 Hood"
2005

> "Final Call"
2006

> "Unfinished Business"
2008

MENTOR

Julian Daniel, now 27 and living in Ohio, was a member of Crime Street. Harold Blackmon was a mentor to Daniel both in the studio and in the streets.

"If it wasn't for him, I probably wouldn't be known at all."

— Julian Daniel

VIDEO

Tour Mazaroddi's studio online at The Stand's Web site by visiting www.mysouthsidestand.com

More Than *A Barber's Chair*



> John Murray trims the hair of Bernie Mahoney, a former local politician. John's Appointment Barber Shop is at 4403 S. Salina St. | Mitchell Franz, Staff Photo

By | Alexandra Seltzer
Urban Affairs reporter

Barber shops, salons in the South Side cultivate friendships and a sense of community

Thirty years ago Lionel Milliken went looking for a barber and found a friend.

That friend, John Murray, not only cuts Lionel's hair, but now cuts the hair of Lionel's wife, Carol.

On a recent day in the barber shop, the three friends chatted about Murray's vacation in Florida. They talked about playing golf and having dinner soon while Murray trimmed Carol's hair.

Being a friend is one role Murray, 68, plays in the

South Salina Street barber shop that bears his name. Murray is the only old-fashioned barber left on the South Side, he said. He offers friendship, advice, humor, a listening ear — all the sort of things people need on any given day, along with getting three weeks' worth of hair growth trimmed neatly back.

Carol Milliken is Murray's only female customer, besides his wife. In fact, Carol Milliken had to persuade Murray's wife to let him trim her hair three years ago. That's when the relationship between the Murrays and the Millikens started — when the wives got involved.

"They began chatting and that turned into dinner, then we played cards and that's where we are now," Lionel Milliken said.

Carol Milliken said Murray trimmed her hair better than a woman's hair salon did. And she liked the price better. The prices aren't the only reason customers choose to go to Murray.

"There are a few guys that'll come in and bring coffee and chew the fat for a half hour or so," Lionel Milliken said.

Vince Moriarty is one of them.

Moriarty worked in a gas station on Valley Drive where Murray's previous barber shop was located. Murray was friends with the owner of that gas station and became friendly with Moriarty. Moriarty's 16-year-old grandson lives around the corner from Murray's current barber shop so around 3:30 p.m. almost every day, he stops in to say hello.

"I get my hair cut here, too, about once every three weeks," Moriarty said.

When he isn't getting his hair cut and is in the shop, he sits in a waiting chair as Murray sits in the haircutting chair, and they chat. They talk about sports, politics, and even poke fun at each other.

"It's the same idea when the girls get together at a hair salon, it's the same idea," Moriarty said.

Rashida Shabazz, owner of Rashida's Transformations Center on South Salina, cuts and styles men's and women's hair. She said contrary to the belief that women love to talk while getting their hair done, men who come into her salon chat more than the women do.

"They're just blabber mouths. Women just come in to relax," Shabazz said.

Shabazz moved here from the Bronx seven years ago, and she decided to open a salon in 2006. But to her it is more than a salon.

"Getting your hair done is a transformation. It transforms personalities and transforms people from the outside in," Shabazz said.

While she is styling or cutting her customer's hair, she said she has heard stories that she may have not wanted to hear.

Shabazz said one client told her about his personal life while getting his hair cut at 8 a.m. She said it was too early to be hearing details about his relationships with women, but she wanted to be there for him, so she listened.

"It's funny with male clients because as women we think guys don't open up," Shabazz said. "And now I see they're just having the barber shop experience."

Like Murray, Shabazz speaks about a range of topics with customers. She starts by asking what the customer's plans are for the weekend and then the conversation starts. She gives advice to Syracuse University students, she talks about sports with Orange fans, discusses politics with the older men, and she can gossip.

"People say it's hard to find someone to do your hair," Shabazz said. "But it's more than that. You need to find someone you can talk to and has a good personality."



> Vincent Moriarty and barber John Murray relax together at Murray's shop. | Mitchell Franz, Staff Photo

IN MURRAY'S WORDS

Funniest memory: I can't remember one joke, and I must have heard a thousand.

Most famous customer: That would be demoralizing to my customers because they are pretty famous in their own way.

Most expensive haircut: The biggest payment I received was \$40. I didn't charge that, they gave it.

Least expensive: I gave it to them for nothing because of hard times.

How long a haircut takes: About 20 minutes. Maybe longer years ago, if I came in hung over.

Favorite time of day to work: Morning. I work better. I like to come in early and leave early.

barber shop info HOURS

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Wednesday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Thursday: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Friday: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Saturday: 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

> Appointments: 95 percent of customers make them

PRICES

Regular: \$12
 Long: \$15 or \$17
 Beard trim: \$4
 Shampoo: \$5
 Shave: \$8

> Sit and chat: FREE

JUNETEENTH EVENTS

Juneteenth Schedule: June 17-19

What: Ancestral Recognition Ceremony
When: 7 p.m. dinner program Thursday, June 17
Cost: Tickets are \$30
Where: Location to be announced
Contact: (315) 422-9400

What: Flag Raising Ceremony
When: 10 a.m. Friday, June 18
Where: Syracuse City Hall

What: Gospel, Youth and Family Day
When: 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, June 18
Where: Spirit of Jubilee Park

What: Winston Gaskin Community Walk for Wellness
When: Step off at 5 p.m. Friday, June 18
Where: Manley Field House to Jubilee Park

What: Miss Juneteenth Pageant
When: 6 p.m. Friday, June 18
Where: Jubilee Park

What: Freedom Parade
When: Noon Saturday, June 19
Where: Parade starts at New and State streets, then down Salina Street to Clinton Square
More info: Activities include Kids Fun Zone (at 1 p.m.) and information, materials and events as part of the Dr. Henry A. Washington Health Pavilion. Also: Musical performances and demonstrations.

To learn more about the Juneteenth Schedule, visit www.syracusejuneteenth.org

for more summer events, visit The Stand's Web site at www.mysouthsidestand.com

call for volunteers

The Puppet Project is a collaboration between area community centers and Open Hand Theater's Art-in-Motion. Participants are working to create a giant puppet that will represent the people of the South Side. Community members with skills in carpentry, sewing, painting, acting, dancing and art are invited.

Anyone interested (children 10 and older and adults) should contact Mesha Givens, chair of the cultural committee of the South Side Community Coalition, at (315) 447-3573.

WELCOME TO THE 10/11 SEASON



The 39 Steps
Adapted by Patrick Barlow
Directed by Peter Amster
October 20 - November 7

A Christmas Story
Based on the motion picture by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark
Adapted by Philip Grecian
Directed by Seth Gordon
November 30 - December 30

RENT
Co-Produced with Syracuse University's Department of Drama
Book, music and lyrics by Jonathan Larson
Directed and Choreographed by Anthony Salatino
January 18 - February 13

August Wilson's Radio Golf
Directed by Timothy Bond
February 23 - March 13

The Miracle Worker
By William Gibson
Directed by Paul Barnes
March 23 - April 23

The Clean House
By Sarah Ruhl
Directed by Michael Barakiva
May 4 - 22

Season Packages on sale now!
Box Office: 315.443.3275
www.SyracuseStage.org

Ebony Jo-Anne in *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, Photo: T. Charles Erickson.