

the **Stand** south side news

www.mysouthsidestand.com

Syracuse, NY

OCTOBER 2019 **Issue 77** **FREE**

ENDURING CHANGE

Hopps Memorial CME Church survived I-81 and is again bracing for change

DON'T FEAR THE BANK

Land Bank officials work to improve program's image

'fang'-tastic!

A listing of events for a 'boo'tiful Halloween

President Hawkins?

South Sider Howie Hawkins is running on the Green New Deal

WRITE FOR THE STAND



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COMMUNITY | See how you can join our team as a writer or photographer for The Stand.



ENVIRONMENT | Learn how Howie Hawkins intends to tackle climate change as he seeks the Green Party's nomination to run for president of the United States.



SCHOOL AND YOUTH | Grasp the importance of developmental milestones that can help with the early detection of problems a child may face.



RELIGION & FAITH | Experience the determination of the congregants at Hopps Memorial CME Church, who pledge to keep their church strong in the face of change.



COMMUNITY | Discover how the Greater Syracuse Land Bank works to attract owners who will fix up and live in the more than 1,000 structures it owns.



EVENTS | Don't be a scaredy-cat. Check out our huge listing of Halloween events coming up this month.

- Cover photography by Robert Schulz of Emma Owens-Richardson, a member of Hopps Memorial CME Church since 1980

CALENDAR | OCTOBER

What: Donald T. Pomeroy Lecture Series: Nicola Lo Calzo
When: Noon to 12:30 Thursday, Oct. 10
Where: Onondaga Historical Association, 321 Montgomery St.
More Details: In conjunction with the exhibition "Bundles of Wood," the Onondaga Historical Association will host a lunchtime lecture with photographer Nicola Lo Calzo. Lo Calzo will discuss his research, artistic practice and photographic work documenting the local history of the Underground Railroad during his residency at Light Work.
Cost: Free
More Info: Call (315) 428-1864 or visit cnyhistory.org

What: Soul Food Junkies Film Screening & Discussion
When: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 28
Where: South Side Innovation Center, 2610 S. Salina St.
More Details: 100 Black Men of Syracuse will screen "Soul Food Junkies," a documentary film that recognizes soul food's importance to black cultural identity but doesn't shy away from its potential health risks. Produced by Byron Hurt, "Soul Food Junkies" deals with the question of eating habits in the African-American community and the often-tumultuous relationship between healthy living and tradition. It is a documentary that deals with the larger questions it raises of how even food is both personal and political, especially given who has access to healthy options. A discussion will follow the screening. The event also features a skit by the Paul Robeson Performing Arts Company and snacks. Seating is limited; online RSVP is strongly encouraged.
Cost: Free
RSVP: Visit Eventbrite.com and search for "Soul Food Junkies" in Syracuse

Thanks to all of you who filled out our South Side Community Newspaper survey, we now know that you love our Fatherhood Q&A, enjoy reading profiles of South Side residents and want more stories on the community's history. We also learned you'd like to see more coverage of mental health, the I-81 project and crime.

The survey takers also told us that they most often read The Stand on their mobile phones and in the printed paper, using desktop and laptop computers less often. When readers interact with each other, it tends to be on Facebook rather than on other social networks.

We're grateful for this information. It allows us to work strategically as we strive to keep you informed in ways that are convenient for you. That is why we launched the survey over the summer and why we'll be reaching out to several of our survey takers in the coming months to glean additional insight. Funding from a Community Listening & Engagement Fund grant has allowed us to undertake this outreach.

Another effort that sprang from this grant-funded work is a new email newsletter launched this summer. It will arrive periodically in subscribers' inboxes and keep them updated on our latest stories as well as opportunities in the community. You'll also learn ways to become involved with The Stand and hear about the programming we have to offer. Sign up online to receive the newsletter at bit.ly/StandNews.

One of our core missions is to train community members to tell their own stories, and we are putting out a call for more writers, photographers and storytellers. We can provide you with a story to cover in the community, or you can pitch us your own ideas. You do not need any journalism experience as we'll provide you with the necessary training. If you are passionate about your community and enjoy reading and telling true stories, then we want you on our team. Read more about how to get involved on Page 4.

This month, we're happy to welcome new contributors, including at least one writer you probably know: Walt Shepperd. The long-time city resident, founder of the Media Unit and contributor to The New Times, interviews Howie Hawkins, who is seeking the Green Party nomination for president. Hawkins is running on an environmental platform that seeks to fight climate change, which has been in the news a lot recently with a series of protests known as the Global Climate Strike, which took place in Syracuse and around the world in late September.

We also welcome contributors Kate Mazade and Sarah Tietje-Mietz, both graduate students in the Newhouse School's Goldring Arts Journalism program, and Alex Rouhandeh, a Syracuse University senior studying magazine journalism and public policy. These students help us fulfill another Stand mission: to train the next generation of journalists on how to cover community news. As news organizations cut community coverage nationally, we are grateful to the support provided by Syracuse University, which has sustained The Stand for the past decade.

Recent studies show that a lack of community journalism leads to greater polarization, lower voter turnout, less government accountability and less trust. We're excited to continue to work with you to tell your stories and to develop a healthy information ecosystem on the South Side.

Please reach out to myself or a Stand board member to share your ideas.

— Ashley Kang



HISTORIC HONOR

Oct. 23

Stand Volunteer Recognized

David Haas, who volunteered July 27 as the guide for the Historic Route of The Stand's 10th annual Photo Walk, will be awarded a 2019 Preservation Merit Award by the Preservation Association of Central New York (PACNY).

This award is given in recognition of his exceptional achievement in historic preservation and recognizes the generous donation of his time and efforts in organizing the Photo Walk's first-ever historic route. He led eight Photo Walk participants to six South Side landmarks, including a tour of the inside of the South Presbyterian Church.

Haas also runs the @SyracuseHistory Instagram account, which highlights historic buildings in the city.

The award will be presented during a formal ceremony Wednesday, Oct. 23, at the May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society in Syracuse.

Tickets to the awards event are \$20 for PACNY members and \$25 for non-members.

To purchase tickets, visit pacny.net/ and click on events. To reserve, payment is due by Friday, Oct. 11.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Common Council will hold several meetings regarding redistricting plans.

City residents can vote on the plans on Nov. 5.

The meetings will be:

- 6 p.m. **Oct. 8**, Westcott Community Center, 826 Euclid Ave.
- 5 p.m. **Oct. 9**, Henninger High School, 600 Robinson St.
- 7 p.m. **Oct. 10**, Cecile Community Center, 174 West Seneca Turnpike
- 5 p.m. **Oct. 11**, Nottingham High School, 3100 E. Genesee St.
- 5:30 p.m. **Oct. 15**, Brighton Academy, 309 W. Brighton Ave.
- 5 p.m. **Oct. 16**, Northeast Hawley Development Association, 101 Gertrude St.
- 5:30 p.m. **Oct. 17**, Magnarelli Community Center at McChesney Park, 2308 Grant Boulevard
- 5 p.m. **Oct. 18**, East Fayette Street Boys & Girls Club, 2100 E. Fayette St.

For questions or additional information, call the Syracuse Common Council office at (315) 448-8466

JOIN THE STAND!

We want you to come and write about the South Side community



> The Stand's Photo Contributor Annaliese Perry stands next to two of her images featured in the 2018 South Side Photo Walk Exhibit at The Link Gallery. | File Photo

By Greg Munno
Staff Reporter

The Stand is bolstering its team of community correspondants to better serve the South Side

Reggie Seigler wants to grow the local music scene, especially for Black musicians. Annaliese Perry enjoys making meaningful connections and seeks to capture and share important moments in people's lives.

Both have found an outlet for their passions in The Stand, the only news outlet that exclusively covers Syracuse's South Side with a mission to fully represent the community and provide it with news and information. Seigler's and Perry's contributions are key to making The Stand a true community newspaper.

The Stand needs more people like them. In other words, we need you!

Getting started is easy. Just contact me, Greg Munno, at (315) 730-4621 or gmunno@syr.edu. Call, text, email — it all works! — and we'll have you on your way to producing your first piece for The Stand in no time.

Seigler, who also serves as a Stand board member, writes a regular column on local music, The Friendly Five.

"I wanted to help musicians in the neighborhood get mainstream exposure — that was the idea behind the column," said Seigler, a musician himself who is the president of Syracuse Joined Artists, Musicians & Singers Inc., also known as JAMS, a nonprofit that supports local creatives.

"Media exposure is directly related to how often the phone rings, who's on the other end when those calls come through, and how your value is perceived by them," Seigler added. "Venues know that you need media exposure to bring in a crowd. I saw that few media outlets were covering our musicians. I wanted that to change."

Perry is a photographer who got started with the news outlet after participating in The Stand's annual Photo Walk. She then began to get assignments from The Stand's Editor Ashley Kang.

"The Photo Walk, and some of the other assignments I have had such as working on the Fatherhood Q&A, have been really special for me," Perry said. "I

love capturing those memorable moments, and then seeing them in print has been awesome.”

Kang, who has been at The Stand's helm for more than a decade, says contributions from community and city residents like Seigler and Perry are critical to The Stand and to the South Side as we work together to highlight the people, places and institutions that have fought for this community and are the key to its future success.

“We're striving,” Kang said, “to fulfill our goal of making The Stand a news outlet of, by and for the people of the South Side.”

So what happens after you contact us to express an interest in writing or photographing for The Stand?

First, we'll explore your interests and how you want to contribute. There are several ways. Perhaps the easiest is to get an assignment to cover an event in the community or to work on an ongoing Stand feature such as our regular question-and-answer session with South Side

fathers. We'll walk you through the process before you head to your assignment, and then work with you on the copy afterward.

You could also sign up for a special project that The Stand is collaborating on, which focuses on drug law reform and marijuana legalization. We're interested in how the criminalization of marijuana has affected communities like the South Side, and what decriminalization, and perhaps legalization, mean for this community and its residents. If this interests you, let us know and we'll work directly with you to tell these important stories, which will be published in The Stand and as part of a special project website being developed by the Newhouse School.

Finally, you can pitch us your own ideas! If you have an idea for a story, a column, a photo project or other content that focuses on the South Side, we want to hear about it!

WRITE FOR THE STAND

To get started, call or text Greg Munno at (315) 730-4621 or email gmunno@syr.edu

ON THE SIDE

Want to buy an ad in *The Stand*? It's **easy**.

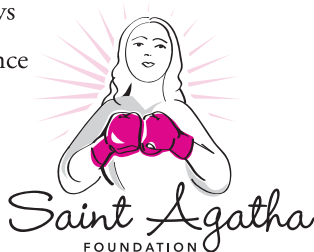
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ashley@mysouthsidestand.com or (315) 882-1054

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A Green New Deal

Interview with Howie Hawkins on the world's climate crisis

By Walt Shepperd
Special to The Stand

Howie Hawkins believes the planet could be beyond saving within the next 12 years. But there is hope, and he has a plan: cut carbon.

Hawkins is proud to claim the title, “first presidential candidate in the country to campaign on the Green New Deal,” which has been the Green Party’s signature program for over a decade. He believes we need to modernize the rails with an intercity electric train system. But it’s not just the train system, he says. “We need to completely reimagine travel in this country.”

No friend of Exxon or the Koch brothers, Hawkins believes we need to take the power away from Big Oil, and that our country needs a rapid transition in how we produce energy. The big question is, are people going to vote for change?

Hawkins, who has been on the ballot 20 times for everything from city council to governor, says this election he sees what he calls three life-or-death issues.

Q: You might question whether or not they are credible, but there are some people saying it's all over. They say we have like 12 years, because we've destroyed the planet. Is it going?

A. It is. The 12 years number comes from a special report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report asks, can we limit the rise in global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius? And they say that by 12 years we'd have to cut emissions by 45% — and that report is actually very optimistic, it's not what the best scientists say.

Because the best scientists, like James Hansen from NASA, were saying back in '07 and '08 that we have to get below 350 parts per million of carbon in the atmosphere. We're at 415 now. 350 will keep us to a rise of one degree, which is the range of the interglacial period that we've been in for the last 12,000 years — the period in which agriculture developed, and with that, civilization. Their scenario is that we have to zero out carbon emissions by 2030 and then restore habitat that are natural sinks for carbon: soil, wetlands, permafrost, forests. By 2100 we'd be below 350 parts per million and we'd just gotta cross our fingers and hope we don't

trigger things like arctic ice cap melting. Which means, instead of sun and heat getting reflected back into space by snow and ice, it's getting absorbed in our dark ocean, which accelerates global warming. And when the tundra melts, you release methane and carbon, which will also radically accelerate warming. Then we start seeing environment that we haven't seen in millions and millions of years. So the short answer is, yes, our planet is going.

Q. There have been some interesting experiences in this whole emergency. One example is Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. She seems to represent something fresh and energetic, I would say, in a very negative issue. What do you think?

A. Well, she represents young, progressive Democrats getting into Congress. They're still a minority. She's known for introducing the non-binding resolution for the Green New Deal, which has been the Green party signature program for over a decade; I was the first candidate to run on it.

They took our program and watered it down. They extended the deadline for zero carbon emissions from 2030 to 2050. What happens when you give a politician 32 years to do something? The kick it down the road and say, “I don't need to worry about that, I probably won't even be here.” That takes away the sense of urgency and it doesn't respect the science. They removed our demand for an immediate ban on fracking nationwide and new fossil fuel infrastructure. Because if you build these pipelines, the investors expect to get returns on that for the next 40 years. That locks us into a climate holocaust. We need to rebuild the rails with an intercity electric system like every industrialized country, except this one, has. That way there's less dependence on personal vehicles, and air travel, which will help reduce carbon emissions.

Q. Will people do it?

A. I think people will do it, the problem is vested interests. Is Exxon, or the Koch brothers, going to reinvest their earnings from fossil fuels into renewables? Not in a million years! We're gonna have to nationalize Big Oil, we're gonna have to have public power so we can plan out the transition, a rapid transition. We have to do what we did in World War II: we turned American manufacturing on a dime into the arsenal of democracy that defeated the Nazis. And the federal government either took over or built over a quarter of the manufacturing in those four years. We need to do at least that much to defeat climate change. So that's why I'm calling for an eco-socialist Green New Deal.

Q. And what about government? Are there things government can and should supply?

A. Well, part of our green deal is an economic Bill of Rights. People have their economic situations secured so that they're willing to make these radical changes in our energy systems, in our production systems. You saw last election that there was a ban on fracking in Colorado defeated, a carbon tax in Washington defeated, the Yellow vests rebelling to a gas tax saying, "why you gotta make us working folk pay for it when you gave tax cuts to the rich?" So people got to be engaged to get government doing the right thing. And you know positive government action is what it's going to take—public policy. It's not going to be consumers in the market making new choices and buying the right stuff, because you can't even buy the right stuff.

Q. What is the worst thing that people can do?

A. Think that neither party cares about them so they aren't going to care about those parties. They're gonna stay home, not vote, not get engaged. Say, "I'm not gonna play their game," but that is their game. They want you to be complacent, they want you to feel powerless. Like I keep saying, people have to get engaged.

Q. Did you ever really want to win one of the elections you were in?

A. Oh yeah, I wanted to win city council. I wanted to be mayor. I wanted to be the city auditor. There were several that I wanted to win. I would have liked to have been governor, but I didn't expect to win.

I think Republicans represent the reactionary racist right. They're a minority, and they only win because Democrats cower before them. Pelosi says we can't impeach because it would divide the country. Then Trump opens his mouth and divides the country with his racist tropes, and incites these white nationalists to violence.

Q. You think you could win one?

A. Oh, absolutely. I got 48% running for city council, it was in the cards, it was close. And we need to start winning races like this because most of our races are in states that are non-partisan local races, so the ballots aren't labeled with parties, they vote for the individual. When you have party labels, people just use the parties as shorthand. A lot of people say, "I'm a Democrat, so I'm just gonna vote for all the Democrats."

Q. You've got an office where the ballot only has one candidate and it's a Green. What does that mean for the local scene?

A. Well, that would mean there's a Green in office. Hopefully, their performance would establish our legitimacy and change the psychology around the Green Party a bit. Oftentimes a lot of people say, "I wanna vote for the Green, but I'm afraid he might be a Republican, so I'm going to vote for the Democrat instead." That psychology will change once we get people in office.

Q. How will you use this campaign?

A. Two purposes. One is to promote the eco-socialist Green New Deal. And there are really three life-or-death issues. First is the climate change crisis. We're into a new nuclear arms race, that's the second thing. The third is working-class living standards.

If you go by this recent American Medical Association study, in the poorer countries people's life expectancy is 20 years lower than the affluent countries. So paying the rent, utilities, medical bills, groceries — people can't pay their bills and sometimes compensate with alcoholism or drugs. We have an overdose epidemic, and so forth. So working-class living standards is an issue that neither party is addressing in a serious way. That's why we need a Green Party, because these issues aren't being addressed.

VOTER INFO

General Election —
Tuesday, Nov. 5

Mail Registration — Last day to postmark a registration application or to register in person at the Board of Elections is Friday, Oct. 11.

Application forms are available at <http://www.ongov.net/elections/voterRegistration.html>

In Person Registration —
Last day to register at your local Board of Elections to be eligible to vote in the General Election is Friday, Oct. 11.

If honorably discharged from the military, became a naturalized citizen or are a registered voter who has moved within the county after Oct. 11, is Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Note that If you have a **state felony conviction** but are finished with parole, you can vote, but you must register. If you are on parole, you can register and vote if you have received a governor's voter pardon.

To learn more, contact the Onondaga County Board of Elections at (315) 435-3312, check online at Ongov.net/Elections or VOTE411.org

The Board of Elections is located at 1000 Erie Boulevard West and open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday

5 THINGS TO KNOW

- 1. Importance of Milestones** — Parents can participate in developmental monitoring by observing how a child plays, learns, speaks, behaves and moves.
- 2. Easy to Access** — Simply call 2-1-1 and ask for Help Me Grow. Summer Merrick can also be found Monday and Wednesday mornings at Women, Infants and Children, 307 Gifford St., and Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Department of Social Services, second floor of 421 Montgomery St.
- 3. Follow Up** — Help Me Grow provides more than a phone number to a referral agency. All referrals are tracked and Merrick will be on hand to ensure the proper next steps are taken.
- 4. Free Resource** — Services are free, open to all — at any income level — in the county.
- 5. Parents Know Best** — Both Laurie Black and Merrick stressed that parents know their child best. Complete the Help Me Grow “Milestone Moments” checklist and bring to well-child visits to discuss with your child’s doctor.

To learn more, visit wellvisitplanner.org

TEACHING CHILDREN

Service empowers parents to take a larger role in a child's development



> Help Me Grow's Summer Merrick does regular outreach to educate caretakers. | Provided Photo

By Ashley Kang
The Stand Director

Help Me Grow is a new resource for parents to understand their children's milestones

Children develop at their own pace, but developmental milestones give a general idea of what changes to expect, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Children reach milestones in how they play, learn, speak, behave and move. Development can be tracked as early as two months of age by noticing if a baby shows excitement before a feeding or at seeing a recognizable face. As an infant grows, first words should be spoken and first steps taken, but if development is not happening within an expected timeframe or a parent has concerns, early interventions can help children get back on track.

The first step is for parents to know what to look for and that resources are available for their family. Help Me Grow Onondaga, a new program launched

in January, helps to ensure parents and guardians are informed about why milestones matter.

Many times, parents feel alone and don't know what resources are available or if they should be concerned, said Laurie Black, the director of the Early Childhood Alliance.

“Help Me Grow is that navigation system for parents,” Black said.

This county-wide system is based on a national model that focuses on promoting developmental milestones and screenings for children from birth to age 5. The goal of Early Childhood Alliance is for all children to begin school ready to learn and for all caregivers to be supported in their parenting.

Early and frequent screenings of young children for healthy growth and development are recommended to help identify potential problems or areas needing further evaluation, according to Help Me Grow's Care Coordinator Summer Merrick, who started this past April. Catching developmental issues early allows parents and professionals to intervene more effectively, as well as prevent additional developmental delays or deficits.

Merrick knows firsthand the powerlessness parents can feel when a child seems to lag behind. Her son showed speech delays, so she sought interventions and screenings. Merrick enrolled her son in occupational and speech therapy at the age of 1. Now, at 7, her son is on target.

"Parents are a child's first teachers," Merrick said.

Black believes that not enough has been done to help educate and advocate for parents. "They need to know how important early literacy exposure is for future language development," she said. "Parents don't have to spend a lot of money on toys or games; they can use what they already have at home. It's all about being intentional about the experience."

Merrick, who spends part of her work hours at social service agencies, provides a milestone checklist and fields parents' questions about typical child development. Based on any potential delays, Merrick provides parents with referrals. She'll even share suggestions on activities to do with a child. For example, she told a mother of an infant to hold her baby in front of a mirror, so the baby could learn to recognize his/her own face. That mother could also help her child to develop vocabulary by pointing out particular parts of the face in the mirror and naming them for the baby.

Merrick also tracks her own progress. She keeps a record of all her calls and referrals to follow-up with parents and see how children are progressing.

"It's about having a dialogue," she said. "I'll send a summary right after our talk and then text or call back within two weeks to ensure needs were met."



> Summer Merrick is eager to support parents. | Provided Photo

LEARN MORE

The **Help Me Grow** system builds on existing resources to ensure at-risk children and their families are linked to community-based programs and services

Call 2-1-1 and ask for Help Me Grow

Go online by visiting helpmegrowny.org

And for more about your child's development and what to do if you have a concern, visit cdc.gov/ActEarly or call 1-800-CDC-INFO to request a free "Learn the Signs. Act Early." parent kit



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> The worship service at Hopps Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church features praise music. | All Photos by Robert Schulz, Staff Photographer

By Kate Mazade
Staff Reporter

Hopps Memorial CME Church’s mission to serve remains strong in the face of uncertainty

Emma Owens-Richardson often finds comfort at Hopps Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, including when her childhood home was demolished with the razing of the 15th Ward to make way for the parking garage for Upstate University Hospital.

An active member since 1980 and the current chairperson for the church’s Board of Stewards, she is not sure what other changes will come to the neighborhood now that Interstate 81 is slated to be either removed or replaced. She’s confident, though, that the church will continue to serve as a refuge for those affected by the project.

“Whatever is going to happen will happen,” Owens-Richardson said. “We will do what we have to do in order to survive.”

The determination Owens-Richardson describes can be seen every Sunday as a white-draped choir processes in under the heavy wooden ship’s hull roof of the sanctuary, just as they have done for nearly 90 years. The song has changed weekly, the choir has turned over seasonally and even the location of the service has been moved during the church’s long history, but the passion for worship and the hospitality of the congregation has remained true.

Urban renewal and the changing transportation system of Syracuse displaced the congregation many times throughout the 20th century, and threatens to do so again with the looming reconstruction of the I-81 corridor through the city. The congregation, however, is undeterred and plans to remain a beacon of hope in the community.

The Rev. Frank Hopps founded Hamlet Church in 1929 with 70 members. The church had two locations on South



> Emma Owens-Richardson



> The Rev. Dr. Bruce W. Burns

Townsend Street, a storefront and a small wooden chapel.

The Federal Housing Act of 1937 marked a period of urban renewal in the United States and forever changed the city, providing government subsidies to local public housing agencies to acquire and redevelop property into low-income housing. This enabled the construction of Syracuse's Pioneer Homes, forcing the church to sell its property and move out. After a brief stint at the pastor's residence, the church purchased a former synagogue at 707 S. McBride St. in April of 1939. In 1940, after the death of the Rev. Hopps, the church's name was changed to Hopps Memorial CME Church by the new pastor, the Rev. W.Y. Bell.

The urban renewal projects of the mid-20th century razed an area known as the 15th Ward, displacing 27 blocks worth of residents, an almost-entirely African-American population.

Additionally, the 1956 Federal Highway Act allocated funds for the construction of Interstate 81 to run from Tennessee to Canada. The five-year construction project resulted in the demolition of more than 400 properties, including most of the low-income housing and minority-owned businesses. In 1966, the I-81 viaduct was completed, transporting commuters on a 1.4 mile elevated highway through downtown Syracuse.



> Deborah Willis

CHURCH TIMELINE

1929

The Rev. Frank Hopps founded Hamlet Chapel in a storefront located at 831 S. Townsend St. The chapel was a satellite location of the larger Christian Methodist Episcopal denomination.

1930

The congregation outgrew its meeting place and moved to a small chapel at 937 S. Townsend St.

1937

The Federal Housing Act of 1937 provided government subsidies to allow local public housing agencies to redevelop the area into low income housing. This enabled the construction of Pioneer Homes, forcing the church to sell its property and move.

1938

The congregation met in the Rev. Hopp's former residence while they searched for a new building. Renwick Avenue is now the site of the Upstate University Hospital complex.

1939

The church purchased a former synagogue at 707 S. McBride St. and moved in April of 1939. The new building had seats for 600 congregants.

1940

After the death of Hopps, the church's name was changed to Hopps Memorial CME Church by the new pastor, the Rev. W.Y. Bell.

CHURCH TIMELINE

1956

The 1956 Federal Highway Act allowed the construction of Interstate 81 through downtown Syracuse. The construction project resulted in the demolition of more than 400 properties. The I-81 Viaduct was completed in 1966.

1964

With its building marked for demolition by the I-81 project and the expanding urban renewal efforts, the Hopps congregation started to raise money for its eventual relocation.

1965

The church requested a zoning ordinance variation to move into a residential neighborhood at 1110 S. State St.

1966

After construction was completed, the new building was dedicated on April 2, 1966. This is the first church building built by Hopps Memorial CME Church in the church's 37-year history.

1970

Four years later, the church was broken into and the organ was stolen.

1998

The Labor Day storm of 1998 demolished parts of Hopps Memorial CME Church. The destroyed administration building required an eight-month construction project, totaling \$600,000.

The construction of I-81 and the expansion of Pioneer Homes mandated the demolition of the South McBride Street building, and the Hopps congregation sought a zoning variance to relocate the church to 1110 S. State St. in June of 1965. Hopps has remained at this location since the building's completion in 1966, but the building has been renovated multiple times from various disasters.

Today, the congregation of the church is aging. Board of Trustees member Terry Woodfork has been attending Hopps for nearly three decades. Throughout his membership, he has seen the congregation grow older and smaller.

"There are not as many young members coming in as there used to be in the early years," Woodfork said. However, despite the struggle for membership and finances, the church has been able to keep going through prayers and blessings, Woodfork said.

The designed lifespan of the I-81 viaduct has come to an end, requiring a substantial reconstruction or removal project to ensure current safety standards are met. The New York State Department of Transportation has elected to install a community grid scheme to reintegrate the interstate with downtown. According to a draft of the environmental impact statement, the interstate project will require the acquisition of 136 parcels of land.

While the proposed changes to the I-81 viaduct do not currently target Hopps Memorial CME Church for

demolition, its members have mixed opinions concerning the necessity and benefit of the construction project. Church administrative assistant Deborah Willis has been a member for 29 years. She says the I-81 changes will relocate some congregants, moving them farther from where they worship.

"We are in a holding pattern," Willis said. "They might not have the transportation to get to church." Despite the public information meetings being held throughout the city, community and congregation members do not feel they are being heard.

"We didn't ask for it, and we don't get a say," Willis said. "The meetings are happening all over, but they have already made up their minds."

New initiatives will continue to affect Hopps in the future. The project is still being reviewed by the Syracuse Housing Authority and the Allyn Foundation, but plans to demolish and rebuild Pioneer Homes, McKinney Manor and Central Village are underway in order to raise the neighborhood out of poverty.

The congregation will continue to demonstrate what the Rev. Bruce Burns calls "Hoppspitality," welcoming visitors in among the returning members. Generational families will continue to raise their younger members in the church, such as Maxine Washington, who has attended Hopps all 21 years of her life.

"This is my family's church," Washington said. "You will feel welcome here."



> Musical performance during the Sept. 15 service. | Robert Schulz, Staff Photographer



> Hopps Memorial CME Church is located at 1110 S. State St. | Robert Schulz, Staff Photographer

IF YOU VISIT

Services are held every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at 1110 S. State St.

Sunday school meets at 9 a.m., and Bible studies are held at noon and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Parking can be found behind the building, accessed from Burt Street.

ON THE SIDE

Stroke? Heart Attack? Say, “Take Me to Crouse.”

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Quickest Cardiac Care

- Door-to-cardiac treatment times among the lowest in the region
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- Close teamwork with local and regional EMS partners

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- One of just 12 in New York State
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Advanced Facility, Advanced Care

- Highly efficient triage for all medical situations
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- Modern design allows us to move patients faster – and more comfortably

This all adds up to **superior emergency care** from the hospital you trust – Crouse Health.

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CROUSE HEALTH
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ON THE SIDE

LAND BANK HOMES

The Greater Syracuse Land Bank owns about 1,080 properties in the city of Syracuse, 123 of which are located on the South Side, according to September's inventory numbers. As each property is acquired, it is evaluated for its rehabilitation potential, and the Land Bank determines a plan for the future of the property.

Site maintenance is performed to secure or stabilize the property before it can be rehabbed, listed for sale or demolished. Seventy-seven properties are actively listed on the website.

To view properties, visit syracuselandbank.org and click the "Available Properties" button

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Land Bank meetings are open to the public. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors are held at 8 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at 431 E. Fayette St., in the third floor conference room.

Committee meetings are held as needed and posted in advance.

Further questions, call (315) 422-2301 or email info@syracuselandbank.org

HOPE IN EMPTY HOUSES

The Land Bank explains the steps to follow to complete a purchase



> Land Bank signs are a common sight around the city of Syracuse, especially on the South Side. | Kate Mazade, Staff Photographer

By Sarah Tietje-Mietz and Kate Mazade
Staff Reporters

Learn how a Syracuse nonprofit helps the dream of home ownership come true

Green and white signs adorn many derelict buildings and vacant lots peppering the South Side, signaling that the properties are owned by the Greater Syracuse Land Bank.

Land Bank officials say they know the signs do not inspire hope and confidence in area residents, and they want to change that negative perception.

The Land Bank owns about 1,080 homes, religious structures, commercial buildings and vacant lots. About 120 of these properties are located on the South Side.

Katelyn Wright, executive director of the Land Bank, says that many community members have misconceptions of the role of the Land Bank and the fate of these properties.

"People assume that we are selling most of our properties to out-of-town landlords or 'slumlords,'" Wright said. "A lot of people think that those are the kinds of buyers that we are dealing with, but that's just not the case."



> Shavel Edwards took on a new role at the Land Bank to improve engagement in neighborhoods with vacant properties. | Provided Photo

The Land Bank works to vet potential buyers and encourage owner-occupant purchases. Shavel Edwards, community engagement specialist



NEXT STEPS

How to Purchase a Land Bank Home

- Search for active listings on the land bank website at syracuselandbank.org
- Visit properties with a real estate agent or the Land Bank sales specialist Daniel Stazzone
- Submit a purchase application
- Have proposals reviewed by Land Bank's board of directors
- If approved, paperwork is signed to purchase property
- Complete the proposed home renovations within one year of purchase



> Murals painted by local artist Ally Walker for the Vacant Mural project hang in the windows of a white cottage on South Salina Street. | Kate Mazade, Staff Photographer

at the Land Bank, agrees that what the Land Bank does is not clear to residents. A nonprofit organization, the Land Bank acquires properties through foreclosures, donations and by direct purchase. Land Bank evaluates all properties, assessing them for either repair or demolition.

Necessary repairs and maintenance are addressed to stabilize safety concerns at each property.

Edwards feels that the biggest misconception about the organization is that “the Land Bank is only for investors; that it’s not for the common everyday person that wants to rebuild a house.”

In the last few months, the Land Bank created a new position of community engagement specialist as a way for the organization to better engage with and inform residents in the communities in which they work. Prior to starting this position in August, Edwards worked with many area initiatives, including Mothers Against Gun Violence, for two decades. Her passion for bettering the city she calls home is evident and essential to this role.

“I grew up in Syracuse, and remembering certain neighborhoods and what they used to be,” Edwards said. “You can remember who lived there and how they kept up the home, so just thinking how we can re-envision this for the future, for the next generation.”

“This position was created to hear more of the community’s priorities and concerns and gather feedback from the residents about the Land Bank in the plans and different strategies,” Edwards added.

The Land Bank is one of the larger real estate holders in the city, but the small and committed staff have

VACANT MURAL PROJECT

The Greater Syracuse Land Bank launched the Vacant Mural project, a community effort to brighten the streets flanked by boarded-up properties, in 2017.

The project, organized by Liam Kirst and Logan Reidsma, engaged community members by targeting streets surrounding schools and community resources to give children a friendlier sight than vacant houses. Fun, creatively-painted plywood panels were secured over windows and doors of vacant houses, remaining up until the land bank has the opportunity to utilize them.

The Land Bank plans to renew the Vacant Mural project within the next year or two.

Information or suggestions regarding community outreach or involvement with the Land Bank can be directed to Community Engagement Specialist Shavel Edwards at sedwards@syracuselandbank.org

taken on the task of making the properties affordable and available to those who want to live and invest in Syracuse.

On its website, potential homeowners can view the properties available for purchase, about 85 at the time

of publication. The listings are searchable by neighborhood, price, lot size and structure type. Each listing includes a downloadable version of the Land Bank application packet.

The website is a wealth of information and resources for potential homeowners. Staff also host and sponsor educational workshops for new homeowners and financial workshops, some through partnerships with other Syracuse organizations, like Home HeadQuarters.

"We want to make sure that you've got all the resources you need to succeed," Wright said.

Buying a home through the Land Bank is a process, one with steps beyond a traditional mortgage. Purchasers must complete a specific Land Bank application, complete a HUD-approved homebuyer education course for first-time buyers and provide a detailed plan addressing the required renovations and repairs with a timeframe of completion within 12 months of purchase.

Submitting an application is not a guarantee that the potential homeowner will be approved for purchase. Each application packet is presented to the board of directors to be reviewed and approved during monthly meetings, open to the public.

Ayesha Eversley purchased a land bank home in 2015 with her husband after moving from New York City in 2014.

"The process of getting a Land Bank house is not for the faint hearted. You have to know what you're getting yourself into, and you have to be prepared for it mentally, physically and spiritually," Eversley said. "(It) turned out to be a lot more than we expected. But in the end it's worth it."

Having a larger home and access to a yard was important to her and her growing family. She credits the success of the project to the Land Bank organization for providing support and resources.

Eversley has recruited other family members to purchase Land Bank properties, finding homes on West Kennedy Street, West Beard Avenue and West Borden Avenue in the South Side neighborhood.

"It's worth it. My mom got a house, my sister has a house ... We're in the process of my aunt getting a house right now. All through the Land Bank," Eversley said. "I've heard a lot of people talk about Land Bank properties, that it's not good. They don't know, and they speculate without getting all the correct information. It is a lot of work, and it's not easy, but to me, it's worth it."

"A MOVIE THE WHOLE COUNTRY SHOULD SEE"

RICHARD ROEPER, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY Film Screening

**Presented by The Newhouse School
& S.N.UG. Community Outreach**

Thursday, October 10th

@ 7:00PM

CHI-TOWN

**The Herg Auditorium, The Newhouse School
Syracuse University
215 University Place**

**FREE
ADMISSION**

Q&A + Reception to follow

S.T.E.A.M. NIGHTS

Thursdays are **S.T.E.A.M. Nights at Beauchamp Branch Library**, 2111 S. Salina St.

All events held on first floor and are intended for teens and adults, except for the final event on Halloween, which is intended for all ages.

Open Arts & Crafts: Fun Paper Pumpkins — 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3. Create an easy-to-make pumpkin using spooktacular craft paper.

Shell Poetry — 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10. Celebrate National Poetry Month by creating a Found Poem inside a seashell.

Batty Cutouts with Cricut Explore Air — 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17. Learn how to use Cricut to cut out bat-shaped silhouettes. Decorate them and design a Halloween garland.

Shadow Lanterns with Cricut Explore Air — 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24. Make eerie and entertaining paper lanterns with stencils created from the Cricut Explore Air.

Science Fun for Families: Peculiar Potions — 5 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 31. Visit the library for a spooky Halloween night of strange potions guaranteed to make you jump with surprise. Unique experiments done for all ages.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Get in the spirit with these family-friendly activities for all ages



> A child has her face painted at the annual Halloween Spooktacular held at Beauchamp Branch Library. This month, visit the library each Thursday for its special S.T.E.A.M. Nights with a Halloween theme. | File Photo

Halloween is all about fun and fantasy, and you'll find all of that in these special events

WHAT: Zoo Boo

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Oct. 19, 20, 26 and 27

WHERE: Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Burnet Park One Conservation Place

DETAILS: Enjoy Halloween fun in the daytime sun at a Halloween party at the zoo. Come in costume and trick-or-treat with the animals during this kid-friendly haunt with themed treats, creepy-crawly animal encounters, keeper talks, and games. This “kooky not spooky” events provides Halloween fun without fear.

COST: \$8 per child, in addition to regular zoo admissions. Tickets sold at the zoo, online or by phone by calling (315) 435-8511 ext. 8512

MORE INFO: Visit rosamondgiffordzoo.org

WHAT: Ghostbuster Car & Doughnuts

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19

WHERE: Glazed & Confused, 211 N. Clinton St.

DETAILS: Families welcome to come downtown to view the original Ghostbuster car from the movie and enjoy slime doughnuts.

COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO: Visit Facebook and search “Glazed and Confused Ghostbuster Car”

WHAT: Haunted Library Escape Room

WHEN: 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19

WHERE: Hazard Branch Library, 1620 W. Genesee St.

DETAILS: In this Escape Room scenario, a long time ago the architects of Hazard Library buried a time capsule which contained the library card which belonged to the building's namesake – Frederick Hazard. Ever since, librarians have noticed strange things happening at the library: books mysteriously falling from their shelves, loud wails coming from the basement and elevator doors eerily creeping open, even when no one is inside. Recently, the box which contains Hazard's card was unearthed during a construction project, and the librarians are desperate to open the box. Can you help the librarians open the box and return

Fred Hazard's library card to its proper resting place?
For ages 12 to 18.

COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO: Call (315) 435-5326

WHAT: Saturday Matinee: "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"

WHEN: 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19

WHERE: Betts Branch Library, 4862 S. Salina St.

DETAILS: Families welcome for a screening of the first film in the Harry Potter series shown with closed captions. Attendees are welcome to bring a pillow or blanket to get comfortable. Library staff will provide snacks. Movie is 2 hours and 30 minutes and recommended for ages 7 and up.

COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO: Call (315) 435-1940

WHAT: Monster Bookmarks

WHEN: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22

WHERE: Central Library's KidSpace, Level 2, 447 S. Salina St.

DETAILS: Open to children ages 5 to 12 to give your book a spooky flair by making a creepy monster corner bookmark.

COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO: Call (315) 435-1900

WHAT: Halloween Drumming

WHEN: 3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25

WHERE: Mundy Branch Library, 1204 S. Geddes St.

DETAILS: Library will welcome CommUNITY Rhythms for a special costume and storytelling music-making event. Open to all ages.

COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO: Call (315) 435-3797

WHAT: Halloween Spells & Magic

WHEN: 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 26

WHERE: Inspiration Hall, 709 James St.

DETAILS: Concert features the magical music of Tchaikovsky, Falla, Harry Potter films and more. Costumes are encouraged, and a costume parade will be featured as part of the performance. Prior to the concert, the Instrument Discovery Zone will open at 10 a.m. for youth to try out instruments. Snacks are also served in the lobby beginning at 10 a.m.

COST: Children under 18 are free. Tickets range in price from \$5 to \$15

MORE INFO: Visit experiencesymphoria.org

WHAT: Spooky Pipe Cleaner Spiders

WHEN: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29

WHERE: Central Library's KidSpace, Level 2, 447 S. Salina St.

DETAILS: Open to children ages 5 to 12 to get in the Halloween spirit by making spooky spiders out of pipe cleaners and beads.

COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO: Call (315) 435-1900

WHAT: No Tricks, Just Treats Kids Halloween Bash

WHEN: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29

WHERE: 5996 E. Molloy Road

DETAILS: Youth encouraged to come in costume for a fun, safe indoor Halloween bash featuring Halloween-themed game stations. Youth can walk from station to station, playing fun, quick, Halloween games and get handfuls of candy at each area (all candy will be peanut/nut free). Additional stations include mini pumpkin decorating, photos with popular costumed characters and more. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Snacks by Glazed & Confused and other local vendors will be for sale, including beverages such as cider and hot cocoa.

COST: All activities included in entrance fee. \$10 per child ages 4 to 7; parents and youth 3 years and younger free.

MORE INFO: Visit eventbrite.com and search "No Tricks, Just Treats."

WHAT: Painting Pumpkins

WHEN: 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30

WHERE: Betts Branch Library, 4862 S. Salina St.

DETAILS: Celebrate Halloween by decorating pumpkins with glow-in-the-dark puffy paint. Space is limited with preference given to children ages 10 to 16.

COST: Free to attend

MORE INFO: Call (315) 435-1940

WHAT: The Wild Animal Park's Flashlight Safari & Halloween Nights

WHEN: 6 to 10 p.m. Every Friday and Saturday in October

WHERE: 7621 Lakeport Road, Chittenango

DETAILS: This family-friendly Halloween event allows kids to dress up, enjoy bounce houses under the lights and see the zoo's animals when they are most active.

COST: Regular admission applies; adults \$12.99, seniors \$10.99 and children up to age 12 \$10.99

MORE INFO: Call (315) 510-3347

SAFETY FIRST

FOLLOW THESE TIPS FOR A SAFE HALLOWEEN:

- 1) Avoid Trick or treating alone. Always go in groups.
- 2) Always examine your candy for choking hazards or tampering. Never eat home-made treats from strangers.
- 3) Make sure you're visible to cars: Use flashlights, wear reflective tape on bags, and always check before you cross the road.
- 4) Never take rides from strangers or enter homes unsupervised by a trusted adult.

— Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY



NOAH AND HIS PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGIST, IRENE CHERRICK, MD

Upstate Golisano Children’s Hospital opened in 2009 to provide safe, innovative and family-centered care for children in Central New York. Today, we serve children and families across 17 counties—and beyond—with 100,000 patient visits each year.

Upstate offers more than 50 services just for kids, and also is the region’s only Level 1 Trauma Center. Our commitment to quality care and an exceptional patient and family experience is evident in our culture and in the smiles of our patients.

We are proud to care for the families of Central New York for all special birthdays, and for many more to come.

