



NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE

ISSUE #354

AUGUST 2008

News in our Neighborhoods

Group 14621 board members hash our plans for the next year....

This past June 14th a committed group of board member residents weighed the options as we move forward to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Kisha Albarán, Patricia Canty, Ernest Flagler, Hugh Vergriff, and Theodore Wood along with the G14621 staff agreed that organization, housing coupled with education on housing issues, social embedded with economic development and fundraising to augment sustainability were the major areas of reflections as we used our somewhat informal process to look at and implement strategies for the future.

Their hard work is just the tip of the iceberg as we embark in the aid of the City of Rochester and other agencies quest to obtain the same goal to better our city for the future.

□
Brownsfields; what an opportunity for economic development!

As many of you may know, Group 14621 has been awarded a Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) grant

which is targeted at 120 acres around the Conkey-River "El Camino" trail moving east towards the Clinton and Hudson Avenue areas. The impact that it can have on the future economic development piece of the area we represent a possible stimuli of more residential and commercial committee participation as we move forward to beautify and stabilize our neighborhood.

BOA is a three phase project program to address vacant land and vacant buildings future use of which we are at the first phase and simply in a nutshell; phase one is to assess what we have, phase two to identify and clean up what we have and phase three to look at plans for feasible economic development that will strengthen our Geographic area to meet the needs of our neighborhood.

Developers, you're on notice because there may be tax credits to work with a BOA grantee.

So it seems that many will benefit and be enriched by this opportunity. Currently we are forming a steering committee of which Ernst Flagler and Hugh Vandergiff have graciously volunteered to kick off our first organizational meeting where local government, agencies and community leaders will be invited to post their ideas as we move forward

to hire a consultant to assess what we have in the first phase.

For more information or if you wish to participate on the steering committee feel free to contact us at 585.266.4693.

□

Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC) of NYS approves grant....

As part of the quote that was published in the press release on Wednesday, June 11th the AHC grant that was approved will finance repairs to 25 single-family and five two-family homes and will include renovations of major systems such as heating, electrical, plumbing, and roofs, and addressing any lead-based paint hazards. In the first phase of the project, homes between Joseph and Hudson Avenues from Norton Street to Avenue D will receive repairs. In the second phase, the project will be expanded to homes to the east to North Street, to the west to North Clinton Street and to the south along Avenue D. The third phase will expand south to Clifford Avenue.

As soon as grant approvals are in place for execution, letters will go out to targeted area home-owners. □

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Executive Director

Solomon Taylor

Crime Prevention Organizer

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14621 Neighborhood Voice

Published By

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From the Executive Directors desk....

The City of Rochester has put forth a housing policy that can be an effective tool on how we can vision and improve our housing stock in the future. In the last issue, my main focus was on preserving our neighborhoods. Preserving housing and creating new housing is as important as all the other issues that directly affect the poverty levels in some of our neighborhoods. The reality for many of us resident-homeowners as well as long/short term tenants, is that we are not sure in which direction we are headed with the preservation of the existing housing stock. The stats have demonstrated that over 60% of our residential properties are rented and this is seen as a “viable business that brings in a variety of occupations and talents that can be very beneficial to our community as a whole financially”. How can we make it sustainable?

Fostering good neighbor relations in this ongoing changing rental market is one of the key and crucial aspects of maintaining and preserving our housing stock. At a recent Rental Market Summit hosted by the City of Rochester the same issue came up various times and I’m sure that many of you have encountered it as well: “tenant behaviors”. The City as well as community organizations and agencies strive and struggle to work with all of the other issues that hamper our ability to sustain adequate affordable housing for our folks when many properties end up vacant and boarded up as a result of various reasons. And going back to neighbor relations, my gut churns every time I have to address an issue with a neighbor that has to do with obtaining a peaceful and clean quality of life in my surrounding.

We here at Group 14621 encourage and promote the use of 911, 311 and our NET offices, soon to be called “Neighborhood Service Centers”; to help us with the issues that are a burden, not only to homeowners, but landlords and tenants as well in assuring to receive a good quality of life. But the truth of the matter is having an idea as to who your neighbor is a few houses down the street has been lost over the years. And I’ll be the first to admit that there are some folks close to me that I do not know. We have our law enforcement and governmental agencies to help maintain that quality, but they can not be out there 24/7 to resolve all of our issues.

So what approach do we take? It is not easy to address some of things that are going on such; the loud noise, the speeding cars, the trash and debris rolling around, the tall grass and not to mention where the big groups congregate and the verbal abuse around minors that occurs. This does not only affect small properties, but commercial sites as well. So again I ask, what approach do we take?

I live between two rental properties, one is owned by a suburbanite, who has kept it up for the last ten years and the other is owned by an out of town investor with a local property manager who currently is prepping the vacant apartments for rent. It’s been a rough ride with one of the properties over the last three years, but I think it is moving in a positive direction. I have taken the time to know who my neighbors are and collectively address some of the ills aforementioned that were impacting our quality of life and have found it to be successful. It is not the best looking area of real-estate in the City with two other boarded homes close by; but we have called it home for the last 25 years.

The rental market is overtaking us at big strides and in the same as fashion rental properties increase so should our awareness on how to strive to continue to be vibrant neighborhoods in our community.

At Group 14621 we can only but look at targeted areas or “focused investment” to create a larger impact of revitalization hoping the housing market trends could change to instill, in some areas, homeownership and create a solid sense of belonging and taking care of what has been put in our hands to steward.

It is the hope of this your servant that we can rally around strategies that will enhance our housing stock to suit the needs of our neighborhoods. But as we get there, we still have to talk to the folks who live around us to get a sense of what a neighborhood is all about and how to maintain peace and stability before we make the call to request someone for help and support. As I mentioned earlier, it is not easy but I encourage you to use all the resources we have at hand.

What to know more about our housing market here in the City of Rochester, visit their website at www.cityofrochester.gov.

May we be blessed in our neighborhoods and community
Eugenio Cotto, Jr.,
Group 14621



***From the desk of
Community & Crime Prevention Organizer...***

Summer is here and our kids are out of school until September. Remember we must always remain watchful of our children and neighbors during the summer heat.

One very important message, if you know of any elderly person in your neighborhoods, please check on them during the course of the summer.

Lets **reduce crime** in our area by working **together** and getting involved with your block clubs.

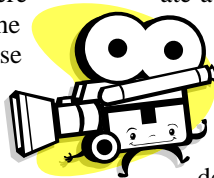
Computer Training Classes

Group 14621 Community Association is still offering Free computer training classes at the new CTC (computer training center) located at 772 N. Clinton Ave. The schedule for July is Tuesdays at 4:45pm till 6:10pm and on Thursday from 6pm to 7:20pm. For more information you may call 355-4686 or 266-4693 or visit our office at 1171 N. Clinton Ave. to enroll in the program.



Youth Visions: Media education program for our youth of the 14621 area zip code

Youth who live within the 14621 area will have the opportunity to create a documentary and in the process learn techniques in video recording, production, editing, mapping and other multimedia skills. They will have the opportunity to create a video on some of the concerns of the community and also document those concerns from their perspective. The youth will do most or all of the filming for this documentary.



Students who are in High School and reside within the 14621 zip code can apply to be apart of Youth Visions by filling out the application at the Group14621 Community Association office at 1171 North Clinton Ave or call 266-4693 or 355-4686 for more information. Orientation and classes for the filming will begin July 7th. Applications must be in before July 3rd.

The Youth Visions project is a component of the Computer Technology Center; which is located at 722 North Clinton Ave.



MESSAGE FROM SLATER'S RAIDERS FOR PEACE

Slater's Raiders for Peace has been on the move and now needs your help in building neighborhood support in their efforts to keep our city streets safe and free of crime and to help those in need of community and city services.

Slater's will continue to build community spirit and camaraderie with all neighbors. If you would like to be a part of the solution, **join** the Slater's Raiders community watch initiative.



NEIGHBOR SPEAK OUT CORNER

Block Clubs and Meeting Dates

Ferncliffe (Ferncliffe, Nichols, Clairmount)	varies
Barberry (Barberry)	varies
Lefrois (Northlane, Kilmar, Shadylane, Van Olinda, Rexford, Valois, Sayne, Milan, Buonomo, Malone, Baird, Carter, Lefrois)	3rd Wed. of every month
Dorbeth (Dorbeth)	varies
Mohawk (Mohawk)	varies
Dunn/Nester (Dunn, Townsend, Moulson, Bremen, Klein, St. Casimir, Roser, Nester, Wakefield, Wanda, Zygment, Norton)	varies
Kohlman/Farbridge (Kohlman, Farbridge)	varies
Ketchum (Ketchum)	varies
(Huntington) (Huntington, Evergreen)	3rd Mon. of every month
Berlin/Wilkins/Friederich (Berlin, Wilkins, Friederich)	varies
Mead (Mead)	varies
Norran (Norran)	varies
E. Ridge Rd (E. Ridge Rd)	varies
Alphonse/Bernard (Alphonse, Bernard)	varies

Helpful Homeownership Tips:



Ted Wood's Tip of the Month:

Money! Money! Money!!!

Did you know that if you live in a home that you own, that you can apply for New York State's S.T.A.R. Program? That stands for School Tax Rebate.

That will save you approximately \$600. a year off your City (school) taxes.

WOW!! That's \$50 a month off your mortgage payment.

You can get the application form "on line" at

http://www.orps.state.ny.us/star/star_forms.cfm

Or call me, Ted Wood, and I'll mail you the form @ 338-3501

All information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed

For more information call Solomon Taylor at 266-4693.



Group 14621 Community Association, Inc.

Community Housing Development Organization Projects

For information on the listed properties please call us at 585.266.4693



76 Delamaine Drive
 Sale Price \$54,900
 Available March 08'
 1148 sq. ft 7 Rooms / 4 Bedrooms
 1 Bath /Indoor Garage



114 Randolph Street (city archived photo)
 Recently Acquired to Go Green
 Energy Efficient
 1831 sq. ft 8 Rooms / 4 Bedrooms
 2.5 Baths

ARE YOU A FIRST TIME HOME BUYER?

Receive \$3,500-\$30,000 in grant funds from HSBC to buy your home within & outside of the city limits.

- HSBC Shop Rochester: \$3,500
- SONYMA: \$5,000
- HSBC First Home Club: \$7,500
- Closing Cost Low Income Grant: \$7,000
- Purchase Rehab Grant Funds Up To: \$30,000

* Income/location restrictions may apply



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McAlpin Industries provides Total MetalWorking Solutions for your metal working problems. Our vertically integrated metal processing operation combined with our progressive and innovative approach will assist in fulfilling your needs in a timely and cost effective way.

“Your Neighborhood Business Listing”

Auto Shops

Blaesi's Automotive	981 Hudson Ave.	266-8100
Banks Brothers Collision	771 Hudson Ave.	342-8000
Getty Auto Service	556 Norton St.	342-3720

Banking Institutions

HSBC Mortgage Corporation	1200 Jefferson Rd.	797-0338
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Community Outreach

Just 4 U 2 Comm. Outreach	339 North St.	426-7093
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Food & Beverage

Chimo's Sandwich Shop	1038 N. Clinton Ave.	266-1405
Greg's House of Chicken	1014 Hudson Ave.	266-5840
Hartmann's Old World Sausage	1256 N. Clinton Ave.	266-4960

Industrial Companies

Allied-Action Limited	182 Avenue D	342-4700
McAlpin Industries	255 Hollenbeck St.	266-3060

Neighborhood Preservation Center

North East Area Development, Inc.	360 Webster Ave.	482-7320
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Social Entertainment

4 Brothers Tavern	1080 Hudson Ave.	266-6797
Bobo's Sports Bar	479 Carter St.	544-6780
Hancock's Hudson Tavern	1034 Hudson Ave.	266-2661



ADD YOUR BUSINESS TODAY!

Anyone who would like to have their business listed in our monthly newsletter may do so for only \$10.00 a year. You can fill out the membership form below and just mail it back to us or stop into our office at 1171 N. Clinton Ave.

MEMBERSHIP & RENEWAL INFORMATION.....

Group 14621 receives funding from United Way (Donor Option #530) and New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal, the Division of Criminal Justice Service, and the City of Rochester. Our organization also relies on member dues and community fund raising events and activities to supplement these sources. Your membership is important! If you have not yet joined Group 14621, we invite you to become one of Group 14621 “**neighbors working together.**” To join or renew, clip the form below and return it to our office with payment.

Group 14621 Community Association

1171 North Clinton Avenue * Rochester, New York 14621*266-4693 * FAX 266-6196

- () \$10 enclosed for 1 year regular **HOUSEHOLD** membership
- () \$18 enclosed for 1 year regular membership and **TOOL BANK** enrollment
- () \$25 enclosed for **BUSINESS** membership () \$50 for **BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP**
- () \$10 enclosed for 1 year Business Listing enrollment
- () I also include \$_____ as an additional contribution

NAME _____ **TELEPHONE#** _____

ADDRESS _____ **DATE** _____

I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH OR LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- () PUBLIC SAFETY () PARKS & RECREATION () FUNDRAISING () NEIGHBORHOOD PROMOTION
- () BLOCK CLUB () NBN IMPLEMENTION () HOUSING () ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT () SCHOOLS
- () OTHER TELL US YOUR IDEAS _____



**GROUP 14621
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

1171 North Clinton Avenue

Phone: 585-266-4693

Fax: 585-266-6196

Email: group14621@yahoo.com

**NEIGHBORS WORKING TOGETHER.
SINCE 1974**



**“DON’T BUY THE HOUSE, BUY THE
NEIGHBORHOOD”**

~Russian Proverb quotes

