

GROUP 14621 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

1171 North Clinton Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14621

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[www.group14621.com](http://www.group14621.com)

NEIGHBORS WORKING TOGETHER  
SINCE 1974

Who ran to help me when I fell, and would some pretty  
story tell, or kiss the place to make it well?

“My Mother”

~~Ann Taylor~~

\*\*\*\*\*  
¿Quién corrió para ayudarme cuando me caí, o un  
buen cuento decir, o besar el lugar herido para hacerlo  
mejor?

“Mi Madre”

~~Ann Taylor~~

*Se Habla Español*

GROUP 14621  
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.



# NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE

ISSUE #363

MAY 2009

## News in our Neighborhoods

### Dayton's Crime Prevention Unit is on the move...

The first full week of May will find one area without the RPD's Crime Prevention Unit as another will benefit from the 24/7 service it provides to the neighborhood.

Community residents from Dayton, Fairbanks, Bauman, Ave D and Hoff Streets, (that are in the immediate area) benefitted from the use of this vehicle to help improve the quality of life for them. But now it is gone and it is up to the community to continue using the RPD resource, but more importantly help us to organize.

Two areas that we are working on is creating a block club for that area and converting Dayton Street into a one way traveling west from Hudson Ave., to Baumann Street. We were very successful at a Community Cook Out where 26 local residents expressed interest in participating in making our neighborhoods better living areas for them and their neighbors.

Christ Divine Assembly Church, pastored by the Rev. Arthur Kerr located at 919 Hudson Avenue has been very instrumental in allowing the neighborhood to use his facilities to facilitate the process. Also we tip our hats to the Rochester Police Department, Pathways to Peace, TIPS, Slater's Raiders and all others who made the transformation happen.

We had several uplifts through our Neighborhood Service Center and the help of the PACTAC group of volunteers that help us make our street safe.

We are scheduling a Dayton St. Neighborhood Festival for Saturday, June 13, 2009 at Christ Divine and an adjacent empty lot on Dayton to continue to foster relationships between residents, law enforcement and local government.

The Crime Prevention Unit will be moved to Conkey Ave. at the base of Ave B to serve that neighborhood.

Remember together we can make a difference. □

### City on the move to improve Portland Ave Corridor...

A while ago back a group from St. Vincent's DePaul group with the collaboration of St. Andrews Church met with Mayor Duffy and local residents to start the process to achieve a corridor study to improve the commercial strip, not to mention the quality of life in that area, spearheaded by Mr. Peter Schaad.

Recently the City of Rochester has allocated resources to commence a corridor study to identify the current status of the avenue with the objective to create a needs' assessment of the area through a visioning session. Mr. Matthew Ingalls of Ingalls Planning & Design has chosen to start the process.

It is important that all the interested parties give their input to assure that the immediate "feasible" community needs are .

Mayor Duffy will be walking the Ave on Wednesday May 26, 2009 from 5:30-7 PM starting at St. Andrews Church and traveling north on the west side of Portland.

Using the above mentioned walk as a catalyst for change, there will be a visioning session to be held at St. Andrews School on Saturday, May 30, 2009 from 8:30 AM to 12 noon. We cannot express more the need of neighborhood residents and business owners participating in what lies for the future to improve the quality of life in this area.

Not only with the Portland corridor benefit from this

### SAVE THE DATES Let's Make a Difference

Tuesday

MAY 26, 2009

Portland Avenue Walk  
with our Mayor  
(St. Andrews Church)  
5:30-7 PM

Saturday

MAY 30, 2009

Portland Avenue  
Visioning Session  
(St. Andrews School)  
8:30 AM -12 NOON

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL 585.266.4693

study, but also it can trickle on to the N. Goodman St. and Hudson Avenue arteries as well. □

### "La Avenida" is a GO....

After a couple of decades and the advocacy for improvement of N. Clinton Ave of people such as Mr. Albert Algarin, Mr. Carlos Santana as well as City Officials; \$1.2m has been allocated for the streetscape and other improvements that will even enhance Don Samuel Torres baseball field on the corner of Oakman St. and N Clinton.

This project will address North Clinton Ave needs in the 14621 area from Clifford to Ave D.

This, coupled with our Brownfield Opportunity Area Grant and the Portland Ave corridor study will bring about much needed economic development. □

For more info call: 585.266.4693

### Board Members 2008-2009

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#### Executive Director

Luis P. Acosta

#### Housing Program Coordinator

#### Office Administrator

14621 Neighborhood Voice  
Published By  
Group 14621

Community Association

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Rochester, N.Y. 14621

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www.group14621.com

### SAVE THE DATE

WEDNESDAY

MAY 20, 2009

BLOCK CLUB/STREET  
LEADERS MEETING

TALK TO COUNTY LEGISLA-  
TORS AND RCSD BOARD  
MEMBERS 2009 CANDIDATES

6:30-8 PM

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE  
CENTER  
500 NORTON ST

## Way Back When: A Story of Group 14621's Remarkable Past

By Connie Valk,

President of Group 14621 in 1979, and again in 1991

Last time I outlined the very beginnings of Group 14621 – the first issue (zoning) that brought us together, and how we came to be known as Group 14621. For this column, I'd like to tell about how we changed from a floundering, ragtag bunch of concerned citizens to the real organization.

The first "president" (I think he was elected because nobody else wanted the job) of Group 14621 was Jack Skvorak. An organizer for the group MetroAct, he had an activist's view of how our neighborhood had been short-changed through the years. It was clear that volunteers could not shoulder the load of all that needed to be done. A couple of church-funded grants supported a couple of staff to get this started, but it was not until Bob Wendelgass was hired that things began to happen.

Wendelgass was young, bright, and committed to making the City a better place to live and work. His major talent, though, was in the ability to bring people together. He respected the elderly ladies on the first steering committee who couldn't get a grasp on the issues, as well as those who had some of the skills to move things forward. He believed in the power of block club organizing and the need for the organization to facilitate, but not do, the jobs that needed to be done – ultimately, the residents needed to speak up for themselves. His motto was "if we can't find volunteers to do it, then it can't be done".

It was realized, early on, that the steering committee lacked training in the basics of community organization. We tapped into an organized a week-end training conference outside of Albany, where steering committee members were trained on the power of block club organizing, communication with police departments, and other such rudiments of vital community organizations. Locally, Bob got a Monroe Community College professor to train each of us in leadership skills.

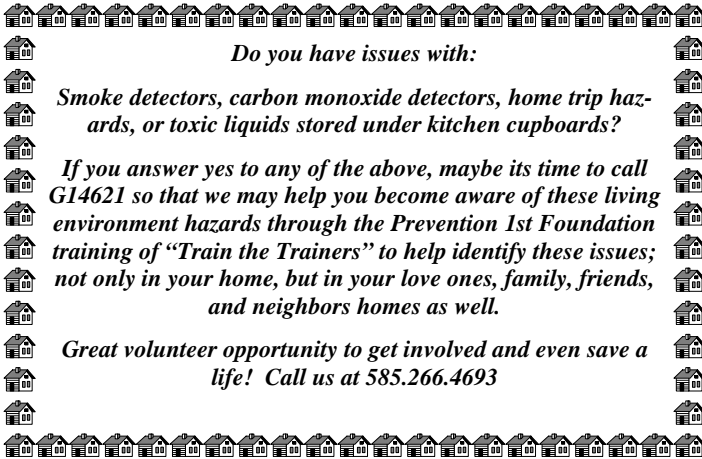
Bob also guided us toward grants that would fund the organization. We started out with grants that barely covered (and sometime didn't) his meager salary. Steering committee members decided to hold meetings over home cooked meals in their houses, to "subsidize" his salary. But, after a while, after tapping into VISTA, City of Rochester grants, the Campaign for Human Development and United Way, we were finally able to concentrate more on what we did than to how we funded it.

All along the way Bob managed to have us focus on the issues of the day. He spearheaded a survey of the neighborhood, and found that Housing, Safety, and Youth were the three burning issues. (My next columns will outline each of these.)

What I would like you to come away with from this column is that the choice of staff matters. Bob was an activist, but he was also a listener. He allowed people to tell their own story instead of telling it for them. We owe Bob Wendelgass a tribute as one who helped build the foundations of Group 14621 through his belief in the power of organizing the people in our neighborhood.

You may be wondering where Bob is now. He is working in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for a national organization called Clean Water Action that helps local communities organize to stop pollution and that lobbies for strong laws to protect our environment and public health. We still keep in touch, and sometimes reminisce about "way back when" in Group 14621.

*Group 14621 has a remarkable past. Stay tuned for other occasional stories from Group 14621's early history.*



Do you have issues with:

Smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, home trip hazards, or toxic liquids stored under kitchen cupboards?

If you answer yes to any of the above, maybe its time to call G14621 so that we may help you become aware of these living environment hazards through the Prevention 1st Foundation training of "Train the Trainers" to help identify these issues; not only in your home, but in your love ones, family, friends, and neighbors homes as well.

Great volunteer opportunity to get involved and even save a life! Call us at 585.266.4693

Upcoming activities:

Thursday, May 7 Day of Caring: Signed up for two projects to clean up trail – North End and Ibero area Garden Club?

May 16 Clean Sweep - Northeast –9- 1 PM (look on City Clean Sweep page for pictures of folks cleaning up the trail last year.)

Saturday, June 6 National Trails Day -

Tuesday, June 9 Genesee Land Trust Annual Meeting at St Michael's Apartments Community Room Tom will do tour of St Michael's Church at 5:15. After brief meeting we will walk to the Corner Park and walk the trail. Trails committee invited to come and be recognized for your effort and support of the trail project.

-Gay, Tom, Pat, Alan and others, on behalf of G14621—KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!



**SUSAN JOHN**  
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY  
131<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT  
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON LABOR

840 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607  
(585) 244-5255  
FAX (585) 244-1635

ROOM 522  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG.  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12248  
(518) 455-4527  
FAX (518) 455-5342

E-mail: johns@assembly.state.ny.us

**Firehouse Get Multi-Million Dollar Makeover**

by Bonyen Lee RNEWS Article  
Published Apr 05, 2009

A 104-year-old Rochester firehouse

has a multi-million dollar extreme makeover on the way. Firefighters at Engine 16 on Hudson Avenue will have a new home for the next year and a half while the work gets done. When the alarm sounds, firefighters at Engine 16 on Hudson Avenue respond immediately.



"In 2008, we did just over 3,880 runs and that was an increase from the last year," Engine 16 House Captain Chris McCullough said. The 24/7, 365 day operation took its toll on this building. "This is an older fire house, the oldest active fire house still in the city," Rochester Fire Department Executive Deputy Chief Sam Mitrano said. It will soon become the newest one after its \$4 million renovation. "The guys are getting ready to start packing up here by the end of this month, the end of April, everyone will

be moved out," Mitrano said. "Through the renovation we're going to lose some of the historic value but we've also tried to keep as many of the details as possible," McCullough said. Like the arches that were once horse stables and the large door frames in the front of the building. The renovation will add an entire building that will take up the rest of the block to St. Jacob Street. Firefighters will also be able to use the second story of the existing building nearly tripling their usage space. Engine 16 firefighters often work calls from right across the street. The group moves in with the Clinton Avenue station for the time being. "They will be maintaining 95 percent of their original district for runs. So these people will see the same company they've always seen," Mitrano said. "It's kind of like moving out of home and moving into somebody else's home. So we've had to sit down and work out some ground rules and reorganize everything to fit in with the guys over there," McCullough said. It's an adjustment period that will take 18 months. The renovation money comes from the city's capital improvement plan. However the fire department hopes it can be part of the state's stimulus package because it's considered a "shovel ready" project.

Jay Glomboski



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# School 36-Henry W Longfellow Monthly Calendar MAY

- 02 Violence Prevention Training Day Saturday at School 36 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
- 4 - 8 Part 2 of the science exam
- 9 Lilac parade Band, Color Guard, Diamondettez all march
- 10 Mother's Day
- 16 Armed Forces Day Band, Color Guard, Diamondettez all attend with relatives
- 17 Memorial Service at War Memorial 3:00 pm
- 18 to 22 Violence Prevention Student Display and Judging by Judges, Lawyers, Elected NYS officials
- 25 Memorial Day Parade Band, Color Guard, Diamondettez all march
- 26 or 28 Possible Spring Concert

As of October 08'  
Clubs / Youth Groups

- Monday's Girls Power - 15 girls to learn etiquette Diamondettez - 20 girls and boys learning step dancing
- Tuesdays Toastmasters - Public Speaking
- Wednesday Basketball for boys and girls (30 total) Cheerleaders (10)

- Thursday Civil Air Patrol - for boys and girls (30 total) Friday possible game or event days
- April 2—Drill and aerospace lesson
- April 16—Tour of Rochester Int'l Airport (to be arranged)
- April 30—Drill and aerospace lesson

For more information contact Dr. Smith at 585-342-7270.

**Group 14621 Community Association, Inc.**  
**Community Housing Development**  
**Organization Projects**  
**For information on the listed properties**  
**please call us at 585.266.4693**



147 Turpin Street  
Recently Acquired to Go  
Green Energy Efficient  
1511 sq. ft. 8 Rooms /  
4 Bedrooms  
1 Bath



114 Randolph Street  
Recently Acquired to Go  
Green Energy Efficient  
1831 sq. ft. 8 Rooms /  
4 Bedrooms  
2 Baths

## Block Clubs and Meeting Dates

<b>Alphonse/Bernard</b> (Alphonse, Bernard)	<b>2nd Thurs of every month</b>
<b>Barberry</b> (Barberry)	<b>varies</b>
<b>Berlin/Wilkins/Friederich</b> (Berlin, Wilkins, Friederich)	<b>varies</b>
<b>Dorbeth</b> (Dorbeth)	<b>varies</b>
<b>Dunn/Nester</b> (Dunn, Townsend, Moulson,	<b>varies</b>
<b>E. Ridge Rd</b> (E. Ridge Rd)	<b>varies</b>
<b>Evergreen</b>	<b>varies</b>
<b>Ferncliffe</b> (Ferncliffe, Nichols, Clairmount)	<b>varies</b>
<b>Huntington</b> (Huntington, Evergreen)	<b>3rd Mon. of every month-</b>
<b>Ketchum</b> (Ketchum)	<b>varies</b>
<b>Kohlman/Farbridge</b> (Kohlman, Farbridge)	<b>varies</b>
<b>Lefrois</b> (Northlane, Kilmar, Shadylane, Van Olinda, Rexford, Valois, Sayne, Milan, Buonomo, Malone, Baird, Carter, Lefrois)	<b>3rd Wed. of every month</b>
<b>Mead</b> (Mead)	<b>varies</b>
<b>Mohawk</b> (Mohawk)	<b>varies</b>
Bremen, Klein, St. Casimir, Roser, Nester, Wakefield, Wanda, Zygment, Norton)	
<b>Norran</b> (Norran)	<b>varies</b>
<b>South of Norton St</b> (Klein, Bremen, Townsend, VanStallen)	<b>varies</b>

For specific time and date or for more information or to start up a block club call our office at 266-4693.



### *From the desk of the Housing Coordinator*

By: Luis Acosta

Hi all, G14621 continues to respond to the dangers of Lead Poisoning by administering **FREE** Lead Wipe Tests. Unfortunately, it is a daunting task for our undermanned staff. We respectfully request the support of those in our community that have shown a desire to help others, to come to our aid and volunteer. With your help can we address this danger that has plagued our children for so many years! Please do not take this threat lightly, lead poison is proven to cause any number of illnesses and affects hundreds in our communities.

Partaking in Lead Wipe Tests is advantageous to our families and the community in general. Whomever desiring to participate in this completely confidential survey may feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns and to schedule an appointment.

Tremendous incentives is now available for 147 Turpin, our latest extensively rehabbed home marketed for First Time Home Owners. This affordable 4 bedroom property is discretely located, has a spacious back

yard and off street parking. For information regarding this opportunity and/or others contact us.

Group 14621 Community Association continues to administer grants that will help revitalize the 14621 community. We are assisting numerous homeowners in the targeted boundaries between Hudson and Joseph; Avenue D and Norton. If you are an owner-occupant of a multi-unit property in this area looking for major home renovations please contact our office to determine your availability for the Renovacion 14621 grant.

Just a reminder for all those interested in home repairs, at the present time G14621 is currently administering grants to specific targeted areas.

While we certainly would desire to serve all our 14621 residents, certain restrictions necessitate that we operate within specific boundaries. If you would like to stay informed regarding any upcoming grants in your area, it is advised that you become a member of G14621 in order to receive notification. We appreciate your understanding in this matter and look forward to assisting you in the future. □

**“Business Listing Servicing Your Neighborhood ”**

**Auto Shops/Repair**

Blaesi's Automotive	981 Hudson Ave.	14621	585.266.8100
Banks Brothers Collision	771 Hudson Ave.	14621	585.342.8000
Getty Auto Service	556 Norton St.	14621	585.342.3720
J.G. Autowerks	160 E. Ridge Rd.	14621	585.338.2886

**Banking Institutions**

HSBC Mortgage Corporation	1200 Jefferson Rd.	14607	585.797.0338
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**Churches**

Northside Baptist Church	2052 St. Paul St.	14621	585.338.7810
Our Lady of Perpetual Help	1089 Joseph Ave.	14621	585.467.2725
St. Andrew's Catholic Church	923 Portland Ave.	14621	585.342.8686
St. Stanislaus Church	34 St. Stanislaus St.	14621	585.467.3068

**Community Outreach**

Just 4 U 2 Comm. Outreach	339 North St.	14605	585.426.7093
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**Computers/Copiers Service**

City Computer	2011 East Main St.	14609	585.747.5704
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**Food & Beverage**

Greg's House of Chicken	1014 Hudson Ave.	14621	585.266.5840
Hartmann's Old World Sausage	1256 N. Clinton Ave.	14621	585.266.4960

**Grocery Stores**

Discount Food Market	752 Avenue D	14621	585.467.0218
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**Human Service Organization**

St. Vincent de Paul Society	923 Portland Ave.	14621	585.338.2330
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**Income Tax Services**

Burgos Income Tax, Inc.	1816 N. Clinton Ave.	14621	585.266.2680
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**Insurance**

Combined Insurance	Perinton Hills Office Pk.	14625	716.380.7085
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**Industrial Companies**

Allied-Action Limited	182 Avenue D	14621	585.342.4700
Dupont	69 Seneca Ave.	14621	585.339.4200

McAlpin Industries	255 Hollenbeck St.	14621	585.266.3060
<b>Legislative Officials</b>			
Susan John	840 University Ave.	14607	585.244.5255
<b>Neighborhood Preservation Companies</b>			
Neighborhood Service Center	500 Norton St.	14621	585.428.7660
North East Area Development	360 Webster Ave.	14609	585.482.7320
<b>Social Entertainment</b>			
4 Brothers Tavern	1080 Hudson Ave.	14621	585.266.6797
Bobo's Sports Bar	479 Carter St.	14621	585.544.6780
Hancock's Hudson Tavern	1034 Hudson Ave.	14621	585.266.2661



**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 with receipt of newsletter
- ( ) \$18 enclosed for 1 year regular membership and **TOOL BANK** enrollment with receipt of newsletter
- ( ) \$10 enclosed for **BUSINESS** 1 year Business Listing in newsletter enrollment **ONLY**
- ( ) \$25 enclosed for **BUSINESS** membership with 1 year Business Listing enrollment with receipt of newsletter
- ( ) \$50 for **BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP** (Includes above Business membership with business card size promo in newsletter for 1 year)
- ( ) I also include \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as an additional contribution

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH OR LEARN MORE ABOUT:**

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