



GROUP 14621
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

1171 North Clinton Avenue
Rochester, NY 14621

Phone: 585-266-4693

Fax: 585-266-6971

Email: group14621@group14621.com

www.group14621.com

NEIGHBORS WORKING TOGETHER
SINCE 1974

“We can never get a re-creation of community and heal our society without giving our citizens a sense of belonging.”
-- Patch Adams

“No podemos obtener una re-creación de comunidad o sanar nuestra sociedad sin darles a nuestros ciudadanos un sentido de pertenecer.”

-- Patch Adams



Se habla español

GROUP 14621
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE

ISSUE #360

FEBRUARY 2009

Board Members 2008-2009

News in our Neighborhoods

No Emergency Repair Funds for G14621...

The City of Rochester has changed the emergency home repair grants program operation based on quadrant and an agency collaborative focus.

We at G14621 submitted an independent RFP (Request for Proposal) based on sector size and our past track record to deliver the program.

Although collaboration was not spelled out to be the outstanding criteria, it was definitely the front runner in reviewing the RFPs' submitted.

Granted, that with the economic crunch that we are all facing, this is a move to consolidate services and make them more economically efficient, but the underlying fact is that they will be administered by a collaboration of agencies other than our organization.

For those of you who have applied for the emergency funding in June 08' and were at the top of the list, as soon as we have the central location for the program, we will provide that information.

Our apologies go out to all whom we will not be able to serve in the 2008-09 year through this viable needed program. □

Property Inspection Administrative Warrants' Legislation to go before Council

At the February City of Rochester Council meeting the Inspection Warrant legislation will be voted on. This amendment to our City's Charter will enable City officials to administer warrants after multiple efforts have been put forth to resolve health and safety issues. On December 23, 2008 the following was shared at the Speak Out session of Council:

The Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning (CPLP) has made great strides in lowering the lead levels in many of our childrens' blood in the City of Rochester, also has created awareness of what we call the "Invisible Monster" and the dangers of lead exposure to our kids that can cause permanent brain damage.

One of the issues that we face to make homes and residences lead safe by 2010 is gaining access to properties. By addressing lead issues in a residential unit we allow ourselves to do two things, 1). Identify lead hazards in the unit for remediation and 2). If there are children under the age of six, we can refer them to have their blood tested for lead.

We have many good property owners in the 14621 neighborhood and in the City of Rochester, but; and there is always the but; there are some property owners that may have lost the insight into the damage that a poor quality living environment can do to the psychological prosperity of the children and their families in some uncared-for living units.

But let us not stop at lead issues, we have plumbing, electrical, roofing, broken stairs, widows, dilapidated walls within the structure and yes, mold. How about smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and viable escape routes in case of an emergency? These are but a few of the issues we see in some of our structures and at times the tenants themselves do not want to give access to a property because of the fear of future repercussions that may hamper their ability to move to another location for divulging information.

In closing, Council members, as you move forward on this resolution keeping in mind the rights of property owners, I urge

you also to keep in mind that we should protect the rights of those who benefit from paying and living in this type of affordable housing to keep them healthy and safe as well. To review a copy of the legislation visit our website at www.group14621.com and click on the 01/23/09 article under news. Please keep in mind that the final document may change. Please call your local Councilmember for questions and inquiries. □

The funding chopping block continues...

G14621 has yet again received another cut from our 2008-2009 Department of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) budget. It seems that it will not stop there. This year's cut equates to a 13.3% of our total budget and in the next years we may see cuts as high as 24%. These cuts will greatly effect our efforts to advocate for those who have public safety and economic development issues in their immediate neighborhoods.

Somewhat safe from further cuts as legislators could not agree or support our Governor's proposed budget cuts which would have cut deeper into DHCR's pockets (or better said; our pockets). At least from this department we may not see further cuts until the next funding cycle 2009-2010-hopefully.

All Neighborhood Preservation Companies (NPC) such as ours will be receiving the same fiat.

If there are issues that effect the quality of life in your neighborhood we urge you to give us a call for more information so that you may contact your local legislative office and inclusive if so desired send a letter to Gov. Paterson in defense of what these funds do to improve our social economic infrastructure. □

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Group 14621 Staff

Eugenio Cotto Jr.
Executive Director

Luis P. Acosta
Housing Program Coordinator

Bilinda Escalante
Office Administrator

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Published By
Group 14621

Community Association
1171 N. Clinton Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14621

Phone: 585-266-4693

Fax: 585-266-6196

Email :group14621@group14621.com
www.group14621.com

From the Executive Directors desk....

What does it take to revive some of the most blight ridden areas of our neighborhood? The answer is vision, vision, and more vision. The Good Book says “faith is the substance of things hoped for, of things not yet seen”. What do many of us see as improvement in our neighborhoods?

Although it was a brutal 5 ° with a wind chill factor of -10 ° ; eight members, two City Council members and four from law enforcement joined us at our first 2009 G14621 Quarterly Meeting. Special thanks to our guest speakers; Cmdr. Jeff Clark, Lt. Wilson Johnson and City of Rochester Deputy of Security Mr. Vincent McIntyre for their invaluable input as the Rochester Police Department (RPD) connects with folks to instill hope of some things that we can do to make our neighborhoods better.

Councilmember At Large, Carolee A. Conklin gave us a debriefing on the Administrative Warrants legislation, Property Registry and Tax liens that were supported by our very own Council representative for the Northeast District Ms. Lovely A. Warren. Also it gave the participants the opportunity to ask questions on these and other topics. The presence of law enforcement and local government depicted the need to continued communication with City departments in order to address some of the ills that affect our neighborhoods.

We began the night running off of the Sector 9 meeting which started an hour before our meeting.

The topic for our meeting was “Neighborhood Visioning through Public Safety”. As we began the session, some carried on conversations of the previous Sector 9 meeting on the history of our neighborhood and some of its assets that were at the centers of conversations. Mentioning such things as; Carthage Village, The Vineyard, The Butterhole Trail, and the ability to point out some polish history. This helped us to cruise right into our topic.

Cmdr. Clark shed some light on crime reduction and how participation in PCIC (Police and Citizens Interaction Committee) can help for the improvement of the quality of life in our neighborhoods. He also mentioned the impact that the cameras are having as an aid tool to fight crime while on the other hand spoke about the continued effort to improve the shoot spotter system for better reporting. He also mentioned that more people need to get involved in order to stop unwanted drug activities in some of our neighborhood streets and corners. Relationship building is one of the key aspects for police and citizens to work effectively together to fight and solve crimes.

Lt. Johnson strongly reiterated the creation of relationships between law enforcement and community. He also mentioned that at some properties, landlords may not be aware of some of the activities that go on, so therefore more people have to get involved to remediate certain unwanted activities. Also mentioned we should work more closely with other groups such as Pathways to Peace; Family Crisis Intervention Team and Slater’s Raiders.

Mr. McIntyre gave some insight to the fact that there are other City departments that are looking out for the best interest of the neighborhood. As City of Rochester Deputy of Security one of his tasks to keep a close eye on boarded up and abandoned properties to detour possible criminal mischief. I can attest to this fact as I have seen him patrolling our neighborhood.

Some of the vision ideas that came out of the session were; but not limited to: “Yes we can” find common ground between community and police; Neighbors get involved; We support young people; We meet people on a regular basis; Landlords are aware of happenings’ at their properties; Two way street communication is visible; and the Rochester Police Department (RPD) know their neighborhoods and residents where they patrol.

Questions and answers brought up concerns basically around RPD and community relations; existing programs to decrease crime; amount of officers assigned to areas; measure effectiveness of RPD response times and overall relationship building with residents.

Please feel free to contact me, your servant, should you have any comments, concerns or need further information at our website email group14621@group14621.com or telephone us at 585.266.4693.

Vision: ***G14621 Residents and RPD are partners against crime.***

May the Lord bless our law enforcement personnel and our residents.....

Eugenio Cotto, Jr.,
Group 14621



Legislation Enacted by City Council Protects Citizens from Predatory Tax Preparers

by City Councilmember Carolee A. Conklin

In recent years, there has been a distinct increase in the number of tax preparers who aggressively market Tax Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs). These RALs, which generally incorporate stiff preparation charges and fees, are often most appealing to lower-income households, those members of our community who are already struggling to make ends meet and remain afloat financially.

As Chair of the City Council's Finance Committee, I felt strongly that something had to be done to protect local consumers who were the most vulnerable, yet often times the most ill-informed about the ramifications of their decisions. The other members of the Finance Committee, Councilmembers Carla Palumbo and Lovely Warren, along with Council President Gladys Santiago, joined with me to draft legislation that would establish specific disclosure requirements for tax preparers who offer RALs.

As a result, Ordinance No. 2008-46 was enacted in February 2008, and ratified by all nine members of the Council. This law requires certain disclosures, written in plain language that can be understood by the average consumer, that explain the terms and conditions of any tax refund loans. The law also establishes both fines and the possibility of civil action against any tax preparer who fails to comply with the disclosure requirements.

The City Council believes it is important that a clear statement of all costs and fees associated with RALs be posted where such services are offered. To insure this, the legislation passed last year requires that anyone offering RALs provide a plain language display stating that RALs are not required and that they constitute a loan. The taxpayer must be provided with a comparison between the refund amount they are eligible for and the amount that he or she will receive after all fees are deducted, as well as the total fee amount charged. The law also requires preparers to inform taxpayers of the approximate date that the refund will be received if filed electronically.

Penalties for those who disregard these rules include civil fines that range from \$250 - \$500 for first violations, and \$500 - \$750 for subsequent violations. Taxpayers are also able to seek civil damages for compensatory and punitive damages against noncompliant tax preparers.

While we recognize that the majority of tax preparers are fully compliant, the members of the City Council believe this law is necessary to protect our constituents against those who are less scrupulous. And with the tax season heavy upon us, this is the ideal time to let residents know what information they have a right to receive regarding RALs.

Until this issue is regulated at the State or Federal level, as we ultimately believe it will be, we will continue to serve the best interests of the citizens of Rochester.



Alfred Burgos, EA
President

Ridge Clinton Plaza
1765 N. Clinton Ave.
Rochester NY, 14621
(585) 266-2680
Fax (585) 266-2058
E-mail: al@burgostax.com

WWW.BURGOSTAX.COM



SUSAN JOHN
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY
131ST 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

Computer Training Classes



Group 14621 Community Association is currently accepting enrollment into our free computer training classes at the CTC (Computer Training Center). Basic to Advanced courses are available Mondays and Wednesdays at the CTC located at 772 N. Clinton Ave. For more information you may call 266-4693 or visit our office at 1171 N. Clinton Ave.

Neighbor Speak Out Corner

"New Year Resolutions"

Did you make one? Lose weight, more exercise, quit smoking, or attend church? Mine were to have better posture and to clean behind the refrigerator more often!! And for the community, hopeful resolutions include:

1. **For teens** – Don't be a loser! Don't quit school and be just another dropout or gang member (dangerous)
2. **For fathers** – Visit your children and give them your time and affection and read to them
3. **Sister and Brothers** – Help your mother/father with your siblings; watch them so no harm comes to them.
4. **With Group 14621, "NSC" & police** – Prompt police response to calls, not just emergency but loud music complaints.

That we make life here in 14621 more safe and a better quality of life for 2009!

MaryAnn Heroux
14621 Resident

Youth Visions: Media Education Program

G14621 is pleased to announce that the YV participants are actively learning many useful multimedia disciplines that can be applied to a variety of skill sets. It is our mission to continue to offer an array of proficiencies in order to develop a greater scope of community involvement. Youth Visions will continue to convene into the school session as time permits. Please contact us with any concerns. The Youth Visions program is a component of the Community Technology Center, which is located at 772 North Clinton Avenue, Rochester, New York 14605.

"Through knowledge and wisdom comes understanding."

Luis Acosta
Program Coordinator

Block Club Leaders

Save The Date

- Leaders meeting
- With special guest:
Prevention 1st Foundation
NYS Attorney Generals Office

February 18, 2009 at 6:30 PM

NSC Office
500 Norton Street

Hope to see you there!!!

School 36-Henry W Longfellow Monthly Calendar

February	Black History Month
2	Groundhog Day
12	Lincoln's Birthday
14	Valentine's Day

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

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
South of Norton St (Klein, Bremen, Townsend, VanStallen)	varies

For more information or to start up a block club call our office at 266-4693.



From the desk of Housing Program Coordinator:

G14621 continues to respond to the dangers of Lead Poisoning hazards by administering Lead Wipe Tests @ **NO CHARGE!** Please remember that Group 14621 is a *Not-for-Profit* organization and are not obligated to disclose result information to the authorities. We are conducting these tests strictly for residential safety and informational purposes. Participation in this service is a benefit to our families and the community as a whole. For those that desire to partake in this completely confidential survey, feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns and to schedule an appointment. I would also like to express my thanks and applaud all of our 14621 residents that had the courage to participate in the Lead Wipe Tests.

Group 14621 Community Association is proud to announce that we have successfully initiated the first phase of our newest grant Project Renovación. This grant will allow us to serve a good number homeowners in the target area. Grants will include such major renovations, which may include but are not limited to: roofing, electrical, plumbing, furnaces, water heaters, windows, etc.

Group 14621 is proud to present 147 Turpin, our latest CHDO (Community Housing Development Organization) which is in the process of being completed and is scheduled to hit the housing market in early 2009. Remember that all our homes are extensively rehabbed and are marketed for First Time Home Owners with tremendous benefits...

**Luis P. Acosta
Group 14621 Community Association**

Safe at Home

When we think about our family's safety, many of us worry about their safety on the streets, and even in school. Most of us assume we are safe when we're at home. But half of all unintentional injuries—the leading cause of death for all children and young adults up to the age of 44—occur at home. Fire, falls, and poisonings are the leading causes.

Through a grant made possible by the Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation, Prevention 1st Foundation, a non-profit agency dedicated to injury prevention, will be providing home safety training workshops for volunteers of the 14621 neighborhood this spring. These workshops will be coordinated through the efforts of Eugenio Cotto and Luis Acosta of the 14621 Community Association, and Iris Banister and Phil Bryant of Rochester Surround Care Community Corporation.

If you're like most people, you're probably thinking "we're already careful, so I really don't need to learn anything about home safety." But consider:

- At this moment, are there any tripping hazards in your home, like toys left lying around? Falls are the leading cause of nonfatal unintentional injuries for every age group except 10 to 24 year olds, where it is the 2nd leading cause.
- Do you smoke? Smoking materials are the cause of 24% of home fire fatalities.
- Do you have a smoke alarm on each level of your home? Have you tested them recently to be sure they're working? A working smoke alarm reduces the risk of death by half.
- If you have young children at home, do you ever leave medicines, vitamins, or cosmetics out on a counter? Children under six are most often the victims of poisoning, and many poisonings occur when poisons are accessible to children during or just after use.

Later this spring, neighbors of yours who have received this home safety training will be visiting your home to offer a free home hazard check and to provide you with resources and information that will help you and everyone in your home stay safer. Please open your door to them and spend a little time talking with them. Just a few minutes could save your life or the life of a loved one.

You can also find additional safety information at www.prevention1st.org and www.homefiredrill.org.

Threshold Relocates

Previously located on St. Paul Street, Threshold is now located at 145 Parsells Avenue within the Community Place of Greater Rochester building. Threshold at The Community Place continues to provide comprehensive services to youth and young adults from 12 – 25 years of age through its Health Care Center, GED/Workforce Development program, and Prevention Services.

At Threshold's health center you can seek treatment for colds, sinus infections, injuries such as sprains or strains, and chronic problems like asthma and allergies. Threshold also provides pregnancy tests, family planning and care for gynecological concerns. The health center sees men as well.

Threshold's hours of service are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-5 PM, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30-7 PM, and Saturdays from 10-2 PM. You can call for an appointment, or be seen on a walk-in basis.

If you don't have health insurance, Threshold staff is trained to help you sign up for insurance that's affordable or even free. Only a few items are needed to prove that you qualify for low or no cost insurance. You can bring proof of residence (any letter or utility bill with your name on it), a birth certificate and proof of income (a paycheck or a W2 tax form) when you come for your appointment and staff can probably get you signed up.

In addition to health services, Threshold also offers a GED program and a Substance Abuse Prevention program. The GED program is for 17-25 year olds who want to complete their high school education. This program includes assistance with job placement and interviewing skills. If you, or someone you know, want someone to talk to, the Substance Abuse Prevention program offers counseling and support. All Threshold services are accessible at the 145 Parsells Ave. location; the site is on the #2 bus route and the stop is right in front of the building.

Threshold is here to serve you. Watch for posters and notices of upcoming events where you will get a chance to meet staff and there will be raffles and giveaways. If you have any questions, or need information regarding any of Threshold services please contact us at 454-7530.

Helpful Homeownership Tips:



Ted Wood's Tip of the Month:



Aachooo!

Curing Colds

A common saying about a cold is that it "lasts for a week if you treat it, seven days if you don't." As amusing and true as that may be, it's not fun to have a cold. What can we do to help our bodies through this seven-day healing process so that we can savor the joys of the season?

- Drink plenty of fluids to keep your body hydrated during times of dry indoor air.
- [Hot soups](#) (chicken, of course) clear nasal passages.
- Try [Granny's Best Chicken Soup steaming hot and seasoned with garlic](#).
- Herbal teas bring relief. [Rose hip tea](#) is full of vitamin C.
- Eating foods heavy in [garlic](#), onion, or [horseradish](#) may aid recovery as well.
- To ward off spreading colds during the holidays, [wash your hands](#) frequently.
- Simply stay warm, rested, and wait. In seven days, we all have the same amount of time!

All information is deemed reliable but not guaranteed

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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255 Hollenbeck St., Rochester, NY 14621

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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

Churches

Northside Baptist Church 2052 St. Paul St. 338-7810
 Our Lady of Perpetual Help 1089 Joseph Ave. 467-2725
 St. Andrew's Catholic Church 923 Portland Ave. 342-8686
 St. Stanislaus Church 34 St. Stanislaus St. 467-3068

Community Outreach

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

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

Human Service Organization

St. Vincent de Paul Society 923 Portland Ave. 338-2330

Income Tax Services

Burgos Income Tax, Inc. 1765 N. Clinton Ave. 266-2680

Industrial Companies

Allied-Action Limited 182 Avenue D 342-4700
 Dupont 69 Seneca Ave. 339-4200
 McAlpin Industries 255 Hollenbeck St. 266-3060

Legislative Officials

Susan John 840 University Ave. 244-5255

Neighborhood Preservation Companies

Neighborhood Service Center 500 Norton St. 428-7660
 North East Area Development, Inc. 360 Webster Ave. 482-7320

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 IMPLEMENTATION () HOUSING () ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT () SCHOOLS
- () OTHER TELL US YOUR IDEAS _____