

CHAP 21 Neighborhood Association Summer 2005 Newsletter

Welcome, Welcome, One and All... CHAP21 would like to extend a warm welcome to our new neighbors who have joined us over the last several months. We're pleased to have you with us! For more information about our organization, what's happening in our neighborhood, and our upcoming meetings and events...read on or visit us at www.angelfire.com/ny5/rochap21.

Crime Prevention...We need to work together to make a difference...

As of January 1, 2004 we began a CHAP21 Neighborhood Nuisance/Crime Log. This undertaking has shown signs of success. If you have been either the victim of or witness to a crime in our neighborhood and the Rochester Police Department has been notified, please contact me with the following information: time, date, and explanation of the problem; if the police responded; the name of the officer(s) and if a ticket was issued or an arrest made. This report is sent to our NET office each week when new entries are received. Any information provided will be handled appropriately and the party who provided the information will remain anonymous. Please contact me via phone at (585) 473-1127 or by email at Rochap21@yahoo.com.

CHAP21 Spring General Membership Meeting...Short, Sweet, and To the Point...

Our Spring General membership meeting was held on Wednesday April 27th at 6:30 p.m. at School #1 (Across the ped-bridge from us here in CHAP21!). We were fortunate to have City Councilman-at-Large Bill Pritchard on hand to speak and to hear our concerns not only for our neighborhood

but for our city as well. Among the highlights were a brief neighborhood financial report and a discussion where we re-visited the formation of a neighborhood PAC-TAC group! Our next neighborhood general membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for October, 2005! Please come meet your neighbors and share your thoughts on how we can make CHAP21 the best neighborhood in the city!

CHAP21 Neighborhood Yard Sale – Great Fun and Great Bargains...

Our third annual CHAP21 Neighborhood Yard Sale was held Saturday May 21st and Sunday May 22nd. Signs were placed around the neighborhood with blue and gold balloons denoting participants. This year's sale featured truly unique items from over 10 households. Because of Anne Schreiber's dedication, this year's sale was another success! After three years of organizing this event, Anne has decided to take a break. If anyone is interested in taking the reigns from Anne, please contact her at: amls@rochester.rr.com or call her at (585) 473-8093!

CHAP21 Neighborhood Association Picnic...Good Food...Good Fun!

Our third annual CHAP21 Neighborhood Association Picnic was held Sunday, July 17th at the home Karl and Natalie Frame at 1023 Harvard Street. About 40 people joined us for burgers, dogs, potato salad and beverages between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. bringing dishes and laughs to pass. Once again, thank you Natalie and Karl for another wonderful picnic!

CHAP 21 Awarded RACF NeighborGood Grant!

The Rochester Area Community Foundation has awarded CHAP 21 a \$225 NeighborGood Grant to cover costs associated with producing the two hardcopy editions of our Spring and Fall neighborhood newsletters! Woody Greene, Program Officer for Civic Engagement for the Rochester Area Community Foundation,

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delivered the exciting news, just in time for us to make the announcement at our Spring Board meeting! These grants are intended to help Rochester City neighborhood-based organizations involve their residents in the civic affairs of the neighborhood and wider community. They are also intended to help these neighborhoods move toward their visions as identified through the City's "Neighbors Building Neighborhoods" community planning process (NBN). NeighborGood grants are available to resident-driven neighborhood organizations on the east and west sides of the City in alternating years. A copy of the grant request is available if you'd like to read it or call Natalie Frame for more info.

Speaking of Newsletters... Wait 'til You See How We Spice it Up!

Our next newsletter delivered both electronically and via paper, is tentatively scheduled for a September delivery. Thanks to the aforementioned grant, we will be able to make some significant changes to make the newsletter bigger, better, and uncut! Stay tuned!

Advertising Policy for CHAP21 Newsletter Established – Better Than Advertising in the New York Times!

For our current policy for advertisements for 2005, please contact Mark Ritter at (585) 473-1127 or via email at: ROCHAP21@yahoo.com.

Patronize these people...

Harrison Home Maintenance/Handyman Services – Siding, Roofing, Gutter & Eaves Repair – Ceramic & Hardwood Flooring – Kitchen Remodeling – Decking – Fencing – Patio Doors – Plumbing & More
 Contact: Tim Harrison @ (585) 271-6732 for an estimate
 Email: HarryTheHandyman@aol.com

Dear Neighbors,

I can not believe we are already more than half way through 2005! Where does all the time go?

As always, I would like to thank you for making not just the last 6 months, but the last several years such a great time to be in our neighborhood! Rather than using this space to solicit membership or money, I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some neighborhood statistics as well as share some concerns I have with regard to our neighborhood.

Since 2001, our CHAP21 Neighborhood Association membership has grown from approximately 20 to over 90 households with well over 100 members! We have held at least one or more general membership meetings per year since 2001 with many folks attending to offer suggestions for improvement, and to express their concerns about where we live. Our neighborhood association financial picture is solid. Our long-awaited website has been launched! A minimum of two neighborhood newsletters have been generated each year since 2002. While we are not crime-free, violent crime has been non-existent within our boundaries. A number of neighbors have hosted various social events that have brought people together for fun and friendship. We live in a great place.

The above highlights having been stated, I also have my share of concerns. A number of people over the last several months have expressed concerns regarding general crime and quality of life issues. Many of you expressed these concerns when completing the form for your CHAP21 Neighborhood Association membership. A good number of you have been disturbed more than once by parties where loud music, screaming and yelling, public urination, drunk and disorderly conduct, littering, vandalism, illegally parked cars and the screeching of tires prevails. A large number of our neighbors (a larger number than you might think) have sold their houses and moved out of our boundaries to escape this problem. I heard just yesterday that yet another neighbor is planning on selling their home with the next year to get away from this behavior! Have you noticed the number of houses for sale in our neighborhood lately? Have you noticed the small number of houses that have been sold more than once in the last several years? In the last few weeks there have been a number of instances where people have been disturbed by the bad behavior of some of our younger residents, but in most cases the police were not called, nor was I contacted. I can only ask **WHY NOT? Your well-being and peace of mind, not to mention your sleep is more important than your neighbors having fun! In most cases, they are breaking the law! Your Neighborhood Association can do nothing to help you unless you take that first step and contact us and the Rochester Police Department!**

As stated in the body of this newsletter, back in January of 2004, I created a Nuisance/Crime Log and attempted to begin tracking these types of problems within our neighborhood. It was very effective in 2004 in dealing with several groups of young adults near my residence who had no respect for those around them as well as the Rochester Police Department, and it also reflected upon the landlord who tolerated their behaviors. I'm happy to say the number of times we have had to call the police was drastically reduced. This was not the case when I purchased my home in August of 1999. Every weekend from August through mid-December of 1999, either I or my partner Todd contacted the Rochester Police Department because of the behaviors mentioned above. During this period of time, we must have called 911 approximately 75 times! I began to question why I stayed in this neighborhood, having lived on Audubon Street as a renter since 1994. Slowly,

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I began to realize that other neighbors around me were also troubled by the noise and disrespect, and we began to work together to combat the problem. We tried many approaches, but nothing worked consistently. Once we were able to put together our Nuisance/Crime Log in 2004 and recorded instances where city ordinances were being broken, it enabled to us to show the RPD the consistency of the events and how chronic the situation had become.

I am asking that we all work together to make our neighborhood a better place to live and sleep. If you have noise issues in your area of the neighborhood that are in violation of the city's noise ordinance, call 911! And then call us!

Thank you!

**Mark Ritter
Co-Chair CHAP21 Neighborhood Association**