Charboneau: Opening Remarks

Quality of Life With a Capital ‘O’

Syracuse University may perch on the Hill, but it is by no means an island. For surrounding the University and spreading out in all directions is the vibrant and thriving City of Syracuse, its cozy suburbs and neighboring towns, home to thousands of SU faculty and staff—and the countless alumni who arrived in Central New York to pursue a university education and, upon graduating, decided to stay.

And no wonder. Syracuse has much to offer eager young graduates and seasoned professionals alike, as our feature story, “On the Upswing” by contributing writer Denise Owen Harrigan, will attest. That’s because in recent years the Syracuse area has quietly evolved into a miniature high-tech hub where many start-up and relocating companies have chosen to settle down and spread their wings. Now these companies are faced with a problem quite refreshing for this region: finding the professional workforce needed to support this business boom. As logic would dictate, one place to which these companies turn for talent is Syracuse University, where local head hunters and out-of-towners turn to call home.

This past January, Todd, an old friend from my New York City days, stopped by for a visit. A Big Apple boy born and raised, Todd finds Syracuse “simple” and can’t understand why I chose to live here when there are so many more dynamic places to call home. Each time Todd launches into one of his upstate slam sessions, I think about his one-bedroom condo with its $150,000 mortgage, the $75,000 salary that’s the sum of his working life—30 years of public service and counting. How can someone choose to live in a place where local head hunters recruit new employees from our recent and not-so-recent graduate ranks?

New and exciting employment opportunities are but one dimension to the appeal of Central New York. Quality of life is another. Whatever lifestyle best suits a potential new community member, Syracuse will provide. If your dream is to live on a 50-acre farm within 20 minutes of downtown, we’ve got it. If you’re looking for a one-acre suburban tract with dozens of neighborhood kids scamp-