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Rochester, New York 14609

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Councilwoman Lovely Warren – *At Your Service!*

Remember, anytime that you have a question or concern you do not have to wait until a meeting to speak with me. Please email me at Lovely.Warren@cityofrochester.gov or call me at 428-6684 at your convenience.



Above:
Councilwoman Warren speaks at the dedication of the Mills at High Falls.

Left:
Councilwoman Warren and two of her guests from the Freddie Thomas High School visiting Rochester City Hall.



ROCHESTER CITY COUNCILWOMAN
LOVELY WARREN



“Restoring Hope, Rebuilding Community”

The North East Times

FROM OUR COUNCILWOMAN

Volume 2, No. 2 Fall 2009

Dear Neighbors,

In this edition of the North East Times you will learn about several new housing developments that are scheduled for North East Rochester. I am happy to share information about beautification projects that will take place across the City, and more about how you can be a part of this revitalization effort in our community.

I am happy to report with more than 30 vibrant and active block clubs, community, and neighborhood groups in the North East, please know that it is my goal to attend as many of your meetings as possible. To assist me in this endeavor, would you please call my office at 428-6684 or email your dates to my Legislative Aide Tracey Miller Tracey.Miller@cityofrochester.gov as soon as you have them to place on my calendar. I will do my best to attend as many of your meetings as possible.

Having a hands-on approach has always been my goal as your North East Council representative. Please call me if there is something that needs my immediate attention. Tracey Miller on my staff works diligently to respond to all calls within 24 to 48 hours.

As always I welcome your input on issues and concerns, please call me at 428-6684.

At your Service,

Lovely

New Housing Developments and Renovations in North East Rochester

As Chair of the Neighborhood and Community Development Committee for the Rochester City Council, the development of new housing in our City is one of my areas of responsibility.

The El Camino Estates and Mildred Johnson Estates II are two projects that have been approved by Rochester City Council and will hopefully be completed by next year. Also, the renovations of FIGHT Village are underway.

I am eager to see each of these projects through to completion. North East Rochester has the highest rate of poverty, as well as lead poisoning among children. These projects will give our families new affordable, lead-free housing to live in and raise their children.

I am very excited about the renovations taking place in our community. These projects are only the beginning and I know we all look forward to the complete restoration of North East Rochester.

Here is a brief overview of each project:

El Camino Estates is a project that Ibero-American Community Development Corporation has been eager to get started for a number of years. Recently Governor David Paterson joined me, community stakeholders, and other elected officials, to announce the funding for this vital housing project. With

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City assistance, El Camino Estates will move forward in the Conkey Avenue/Avenue D area.

This project is part of the much-anticipated redevelopment of the El Camino Rail Trail that the community has been working hard to develop. Currently the Genesee Land Trust and other community stakeholders have constructed a beautiful pocket park at the corner of Conkey and Clifford Avenue. With the new housing development currently in the works, you will see a great change in the area.

Mildred Johnson Estates II is a project that is being developed by Pathstone Development Corporation. Phase I of this project was completely successful and we are looking forward to Phase II.

This project is named after the late North East community activist Mildred Johnson. Ms. Johnson's dear friend Edna Craven is keeping her name and influence alive in this area.

Phase II will consist of an additional 10 to 15 new homes in the same area as Phase I, Maria Street, Alphonse Street, and Bernard Street area. Along with the housing, a new community center will be built that can be utilized by the community for meetings, birthday parties, and other celebrations for a nominal fee.

There are many community stakeholders in this area that are eager to see the completion of project. With this development, we are continuing the legacy of moving this community forward that Ms. Johnson started years ago.

FIGHT Village Apartments Renovation is creating a unique opportunity for families because some of the apartments have as many as four bedrooms located in some of the units.

The entire complex will be renovated one apartment at a time and the community center will be completely refurbished with new facade improvements and landscaping.

I would like to give a huge thank you to Conifer Realty Inc. for their commitment to North East Rochester and creating affordable housing for our senior citizens and families. Conifer Realty Inc. is also responsible for the Senior Developments at St. Michael's I and II.

Vacant Lot Beautification Program-Focused Investment Strategy (FIS)

The goal of the City's Focused Investment Strategy (FIS) is to promote positive change in four strategically selected City neighborhoods. The area in the North East that was selected for Phase I of FIS is Marketview Heights.

One of the methods that we hope will assist in beautifying our City under the FIS program is the Vacant Lot Beautification Program. This program aims to improve and beautify lots within the target streets of the FIS areas.

Fencing and greening materials will be made available to community groups who wish to beautify the lots; if successful, this program could serve as a pilot program for the rest of the City. Fifteen vacant lots will be renovated within each of the four FIS areas of the City.

The Marketview Heights Collective Action Project under the direction of Pamela Resse-Smith from Pathstones Corporation is well on their way. If you have time, take a moment to stroll down Union Street near the Public Market and look at the community gardens they have planted.



Vacant Lot Fencing and Greening Program Policies:

- Only City-owned vacant lots will be eligible.
- The City will pre-approve the list of lots to be included in this program.
- Residential and commercial vacant lots are eligible.
- Buildable and unbuildable lots are eligible.
- Proposed fencing and beautification concepts must incorporate the existing 6 by 6-wooden posts (bollards) on each vacant lot.
- Bollards will be inspected, repaired where necessary, and deemed suitable to hold new fence before installation.
- An FIS area and implementation plan will be agreed upon before work begins.
- Fencing will be installed utilizing existing contract with New York Fence, Inc.
- The City, using an existing Forestry contract, will purchase small ornamental trees.
- FIS team leaders and Garden Permit holders will agree upon location of trees on vacant lots.
- Trees will be picked up by community groups holding Garden Permit, from 210 Colfax Street at an agreed upon date.

Neighborhood Uplift!

The Rochester Police Department has invested a number of resources in our area. We are hopeful with a few more resources — including the work of Marisol Lopez of the Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) supported by the neighbors in the community — we will put an end to the crime and open air drug market in our neighborhood once and for all.

Public Safety and Quality of Life in the North East

As a direct result of active involvement from residents of the North East, arrests have been made, additional police patrols have been added to neighborhoods, and our Police Department is aware of certain areas in our community that require additional policing because of information provided to them by residents from the North East.

Again, if you are aware of suspicious activity in your area and would like to report the information confidentially, please call my office and be assured that my reports to Chief Moore are made without identifying the person providing the information. However, this does not take the place of calling 911 in emergency situations. This generally is a method for improving quality of life issues, such as drug activity, noise violations and nuisance issues.

Community Activities *in Rochester*

The Department of Recreation and Youth services provides such a wide variety of programs that I am unable to list them all. For a complete listing of scheduled programs please call 311 and inquire about the recreation center near you!

Saturday, December 5

Join us for the **Liberty Pole Lighting** and **Family Holiday Party** at 3:00 PM.

Sundays, December 6, 13 and 20

Holidays at the Public Market. From 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. the entire market is transformed into a holiday shopper's paradise. The event features numerous vendors with art, crafts, decorations, holiday food delicacies, gift items and stocking stuffers. Bring the children for a visit with Santa and free horse-drawn sleigh rides. For vending information, please call (585) 428-6907.

Thursday, December 31

Be a part of the **City's 175th Anniversary New Year's Eve Celebration** from 8:00 until 10 p.m. at the Convention Center and Main Street Bridge between South Avenue and Exchange Blvd.

For questions on any of the events sponsored by the City of Rochester please call 311. If you would like flyers to distribute or post on your neighborhood bulletin board regarding the events listed, please call my office and we will gladly send them to you!

For Breaking North East News...

I am launching a new blogging website that will give up to date breaking North East news as part of my continued community service outreach, and to ensure that my constituents are well informed as to what opportunities are available to them in our neighborhood, as well as activities taking place in our community.

If you would like to have your block club, community group, or organization linked in to my site, please email me at lovelywarren@msn.com.

Please check it out at www.lovelywarren.com!