



ROCHESTER CITY COUNCILWOMAN
LOVELY WARREN



“Restoring Hope, Rebuilding Community”

The North East Times

FROM OUR COUNCILWOMAN

Volume 4, No. 1 Winter 2012



North East Councilwoman Lovely Warren being sworn in as President of the Rochester City Council.

Dear Neighbors,

In this edition of the North East Times, I want to share information with you on City Tax Exemptions, my public safety recruitment efforts and my second annual Thanksgiving Giveaway. As always, I welcome your input on issues and concerns, please call me at (585) 428-6684.

At your Service,

Lovely

Our Work Continues

I would like to wish you and your family a Happy New Year! I hope that 2012 is a happy, healthy and vibrant one for all of us.

When I ran for office four years ago, one of my constituents described North East Rochester as the City’s “junk drawer.” When I ran for re-election last year, someone asked why was I running again and I said because my work isn’t finished yet.

Over the last four years, we have collectively worked to bring North East Rochester back to the beacon of hope it once was for residents and for those

that migrate here from other countries. We have learned that in order to truly make change, we must do it together and not separately. Before seeking reelection I asked myself are things better today than they were four years ago and I must say without a shadow of doubt — *Absolutely!*

I want to thank all of you for believing in my ability to lead, for electing me and helping me become a better person; for showing me what teamwork truly is and for not giving up and walking away from a very challenged area.

Whether it’s the members of one of the many active block clubs like: Alphonse-Bernard, South of Norton Neighbors, LeFrois Street, Dunn-Nester Neighbors (just to name a few); or the supportive residents of Keeler Park and Seneca Manor, or the many residents of our North East community; you have shown me how to be resilient and how to fight for what you believe in.

I want to also thank Team North East Rochester who over the last four years worked hard to make change happen — I know that I could not do my job without this organization. You may ask who is Team North East? Internally this team includes Marisol Lopez the Neighborhood Service Center administrator, Amy Terrance Rivera, Roberto Burgos, Daisy Algarin and all

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City of Rochester Property Tax Exemption

I wanted to make you aware of possible exemptions that you might be eligible for. Below is a brief description of the most common property tax exemptions available to property owners in the City of Rochester. For a more detailed explanation of each exemption, please go to www.Cityofrochester.gov/Assessment.

Basic STAR: For property which is the owner's primary residence. There is no age requirement or income qualification. (Applies to City and School Taxes only)

SENIORS EXEMPTIONS

Enhanced STAR for Seniors Exemption: For property which is the primary residence of an owner who is age 65 or older (or a surviving spouse 62 or older) and had a maximum household income of \$79,050* in the previous year; *Subject to increase. (Applies to City and School Taxes only.)

Senior Citizens Aged Exemption: For residential property with an owner 65 or older (or a surviving spouse 62 or older) and had a maximum household income of \$37,400* in the previous year. *Subject to increase. (Applies to City, School and County Taxes. If a child attending public school resides on the premises, including in a rental unit, the exemption will not apply to the School Tax.)

Veterans: For residential properties owned by a veteran (or unmarried surviving spouse) which is the primary residence of the owner, who served in the United States armed forces at any time. (Applies to City and County Taxes only.)

Disabled: For residential property with an owner and primary resident who receives Social Security disability payments, Railroad Retirement disability benefits, Veterans Affairs (VA) Disability Pension, or has a state certificate designating them as legally blind. The maximum household income of \$37,400* in the previous year is a requirement for this exemption. *Subject to increase. (Applicable to Monroe County taxes only.)

Capital Improvements to Residential Property: For one and two family houses which have undergone reconstruction, alteration, or improvement. The cost of

the improvements must be at least \$3,000. Expenditures for maintenance do not qualify. The exemption applies to an increase in assessed value due to the improvements. (Applies to City and School Taxes only.)

Solar, Wind and Farm Waste Energy Systems Exemption: An exemption for property that contains a solar, wind, or farm waste energy system meeting the requirements approved by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority. (Applies to City, School, & County Taxes.)

Clergy: For residence owned by a clergy person (or unmarried surviving spouse) who is engaged in the work assigned by the church or denomination of which they are a member. (Applies to City, School, & County Taxes.)

Construction of Living Quarters for Parent or Grandparent: The property must be the owner's principal place of residence and the primary residence of at least one parent or grandparent. The exemption applies to a resultant increase in assessed value due to the construction. (Applicable to Monroe County taxes only.)

Historic Improvement Exemption: An exemption on the increased assessed value due to alteration or improvements approved by the Historic Preservation Board. (Applies to City and School Taxes only.)

Religious, Educational, Charitable, Hospital, and Other Nonprofit: Property must be owned by the nonprofit organization seeking the exemption. It cannot be owned by individuals, profit-making corporations, or other non-exempt groups. The property must be used for tax exempt purposes. (Applies to City, School and County Taxes.)

The deadline to apply for any exemptions for which you may be eligible, is **Wednesday, February 1, 2012**. For information and instructions, call the City's Bureau of Assessment at (585) 428-6994 or you may stop by the Assessment office at City Hall, 30 Church Street, Room 101A for assistance.

Foreclosure Prevention Assistance

If you are a homeowner and find yourself unable to pay your mortgage there is help. The Housing Council, The Empire Justice Center and the Legal Aid Society of Rochester have a partnership to assist homeowners at all stages of foreclosure prevention.

Assistance is also available for renters facing eviction due to foreclosure. According to a nationwide study, as many as 40 percent of families that faced eviction due to foreclosure are renters.

If you or someone you know fall into either of these situations, these non-profit agencies provide homeownership assistance and foreclosure prevention counseling, advocacy and legal services. This foreclosure prevention program is available to all residents in Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans and Wayne Counties.

For more information please call The Housing Council at (585) 546-3700, The Empire Justice Center at (585) 454-6500 and The Legal Aid Society of Rochester at (585) 232-4090.

"Our Work" continued from page 1 of the Rochester Police Departments' officers and Community Police Officers.

The external team includes the business associations and community organizations like Group 14621 and CONEA. It also includes Jon Greenbaum from Action for a Better Community, Miguel Melendez from Project Hope (IBERO), Greg Byrd of Bridges to Wellness/Puentes a la Salud (Jordan Health Center), and Pamela Reese-Smith from Marketview Heights Collective Action Project (PathStone).

Together we have worked on many projects to improve our community during my first term and I look forward to us accomplishing many more of our goals in 2012 and beyond. Thank you all for trying to make North East Rochester a place everyone would be proud to call home.



Lovely helps to prepare the food baskets for the giveaway.

Second Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Giveaway

Serving as your City Councilwoman, I personally know how difficult the holiday season can be for my residents and their families. With that in mind, I sponsored my second annual turkey dinner giveaway for needy families, children and seniors in our community.

In addition to my own direct contacts, I received the names of those in need from my North East community partners and we were able to serve more than one hundred and fifty people a complete thanksgiving meal.

Joining me again for this community outreach was Mr. Raleigh Cummings; and I also received the generous assistance of Walmart, Hudson Avenue location, North Clinton Jewelers and West Main Jewelers, Rutner Iron Inc., El Pilon, Dominicana Beauty Salon, Henry's Check Cashing, Silk Creation, Hair Galleria, Borinquen Jewelry and Latinas Unidas.

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all the business owners and volunteers from the community, as well as City employees that helped to make my second annual thanksgiving dinner a success.



Lovely and Yolanda Sayres, Outreach Coordinator of "A Healthy Baby Begins with You", display a "onesie" promoting the program.

The Perinatal Network — A Healthy Baby Begins with You

The Perinatal Network provides community leadership to achieve the best possible health for babies and their mothers. In the City of Rochester, too many babies are born too early and too small to be healthy; in 2010, 34 babies died before their first birthday.

A Healthy Baby Begins with You is a program designed to reach women who are at risk of poor birth outcomes. Yolanda Sayres is the Outreach Coordinator for the program; Yolanda connects young mothers and their babies to a doctor and health insurance if they are uninsured and links them to support services that can help with many of their needs.

The Perinatal Network encourages young women to make sure they are healthy before they are pregnant and links pregnant women to medical and support services early in their pregnancy. Prenatal classes and other support services are offered at two Healthy Start Centers; Unity St. Mary's campus and Clinton Family Health Center. There is no cost or age limit to be part of these programs.

If you know of a mother that can benefit from a Healthy Baby Begins with You, please ask her to call Yolanda Sayres at (585) 546-4930 Ext. 203.

New in our Community!

I am always pleased when new business owners choose to start their companies in North East Rochester. Here are several I want to highlight:

Canopy Coin Laundry
585 Hudson Avenue, 14605
(585) 325-5060
Hours of Operation: Open Daily

Canopy Coin Laundry is a spacious, clean and friendly laundromat. Television and free Wi-Fi service are available.

Dunkin Donuts
2299 Culver Road, 14609
Hours of Operation:
Monday through Sunday 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Your Local Pharmacy
Coming soon
780 Joseph Avenue, 14621
(585) 266-1100

Your Local Pharmacy will provide medications easily and affordably; bilingual pharmacy technicians will be on staff.

Please support these new businesses and all of our North East businesses, they are vital to the revitalization of our community!



Above: Lovely at the grand opening for Watts Academic Tutoring. Jerome Watts, owner joins Lovely, Chief James Sheppard, Deputy Mayor Leonard Redon, Commissioner Carlos Carballada and others for the celebration.



At right: Lovely welcomes to the community Mr. Josh Mack, owner of Excel Educational Services. Joining Lovely are Commissioner Carlos Carballada..

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Public Safety Careers Recruitment

Ensuring that City residents have an opportunity at a career in the public safety field was one of my main priorities in 2011.

In response to resident concerns, I had the privilege of partnering with Rochester Police Chief James Sheppard and Rochester Fire Chief John Caufield, in making this employment opportunity known to City residents.

Over several months on Sunday mornings, Chief Sheppard and Chief Caufield joined me at more than twenty City churches, where they had the chance to speak directly to thousands of people in regards to their departments' recruitment efforts and placement tests.

The Chiefs addressed the congregations about the job requirements of their departments, the benefits of the positions and the chance to serve the community in which they live. Chief Sheppard and Chief Caufield also encouraged the residents to share the message that they heard with others in the community.

I want to thank Mayor Tom Richards, Councilman Adam McFadden, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, Councilwoman Loretta Scott, Councilman Dana Miller and all of the Pastors and their congregations, for working with me to address community concerns to actively assist in developing a police department and fire department that reflects the community that those departments serves.



Lovely is joined at a press conference with Mayor Tom Richards and Chief John Caufield, announcing the Rochester Fire Department recruitment program.

Meeting with Councilwoman Warren

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 (585) 428-6684