



Update 19

A publication of the 19th Ward Community Association • 216 Thurston Road, Rochester NY 14619 • 19thward@19wca.org

January 2016

Happy New Year

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Update 19 is published at least ten times per year from September through June for members of the 19th Ward Community Association at 216 Thurston Road, Rochester NY 14619. To become a member, contact the Association at **585.328.6571**, Tuesday through Friday 9:30 am – 2:30 pm, or email 19thward@19wca.org.
Editor: Jackie Farrell and John Burch



Diane Watkins
President, 19WCA



President's Message

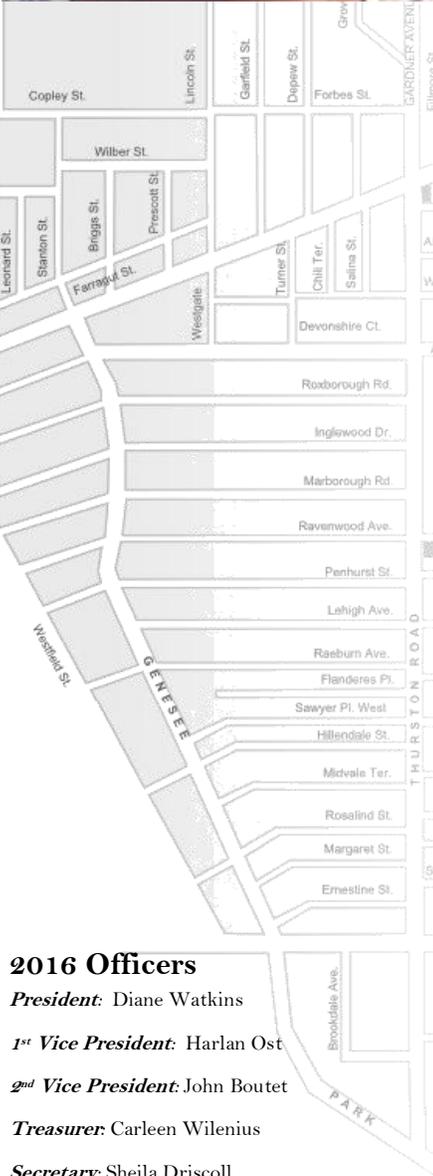
Welcome to January 2016!

This is the time of the year that we make all kinds of promises that we may or may not be able to keep. I don't plan to make difficult to keep promises although I do recommit to working to make my community better and stronger in 2016. We may be unable to count on snow in Rochester this winter... but one thing we can surely count on is that the hearty volunteers of the 19th Ward Community Association continue to work into our 51st year!

Our January event, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Luminary celebration is in the planning stages. There is also a group of volunteers working with the City's historian to create a project that would improve the condition of the Rapids Cemetery on Congress Ave. We will continue to host our traditional events as well as investigate opportunities for us to expand our work in the community. Before we know it, it will be time to spruce up the community gardens. Our friends and neighbors are not wasting anytime getting the year off to an active start. History has proven that as a neighborhood association, community activities and engagements are strengths of the 19th WCA. I don't expect 2016 to be any different.

Unfortunately, the 19th like other neighborhoods, will most likely still struggle in the New Year with crime and other malfeasances that happen in free societies. One thing that The Rochester Police Department is doing to improve their work is putting 480 body cameras into action. They are well into writing legislation that will guide the protocol for how body cameras will be used. They held four well attended community meetings in which they collected a plethora of points to consider. It seems that the RPD and the City are paying attention that every point of view is considered. Let's hope for the best.

In 2016, we will continue to work as community to get involved and engage with our city officials to find solutions to the challenges that threaten our community and the City. I urge you as residents to get involved and stay involved even when it feels like we can't make a difference. Your voice matters, your time commitment is important, and you are a valued member of the 19th Ward Community. Happy New Year!



2016 Officers

- President:* Diane Watkins
- 1st Vice President:* Harlan Ost
- 2nd Vice President:* John Boutet
- Treasurer:* Carleen Wilenius
- Secretary:* Sheila Driscoll
- Past President:* LaShay Harris



50th Thank You

As we complete our 50th Anniversary Year, the committee thanks all those who have contributed to making this year a success, and to our steering committee: John and Angie Burch, Deb Leary, JoAnn DeMott, Zola Brown, Doris Meadows, Carol Kramer, Diane Watkins, LaShay Harris, Doreen Scanlan, Mary Dan Cooper, Jay Ross, Greta Mosley, Joanne DeMarle, Carleen Wilenius, Joyce Horstman, Lisa Watson, Mary Fran Kolbuc. From the first event of the year, MLK Luminary Night, through the Christmas party, each event has been a shining example of how the 19th Ward celebrates community.

More than 80 people donated to the Anniversary Fund. Because of those donations we were able to enhance our events, including, but not limited to, a petting zoo for Square Fair, a reunion picnic on Square Fair weekend, prizes for the children who created posters reminding us why the 19th Ward is a “great place to live”, dinner at the annual convention, cakes, cakes, cakes, whenever and wherever it was appropriate throughout the year, and most importantly, gifts to two of our cherished institutions in the 19th Ward – Genesee Valley Little League for equipment and uniforms, and the Westside Farmers Market, for youth activities involving exercise and nutrition.

Our many volunteers have worked hard throughout the year. We hesitate to mention them here, fearing that someone will be left out. Know that your efforts are what made the year great and we thank you! We thank Diane Watkins. As President she stepped back and allowed the committees to create. She was our cheerleader, and a co-chair of the convention too. Let’s keep our spirit alive; attend an event this year, volunteer for a committee, or if you see something that needs attention, take care of it. We are a successful organization because of the energy we put into our neighborhood. Let’s keep it going in the next 50 years.

Tri-chairpersons

Sharon Conheady

Jackie Farrell

Adrienne Klac

Delegates' Council, Dec. 10, 2015

Diane Watkins, President, chaired the meeting.

--**Library report:** Homework Helpers are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30pm. Literacy Volunteers of Rochester help people with resumes, job applications, and applications for resources. The volunteers are available at the library on Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 3pm.

--Jim McIntosh from the City's Environmental Services Department talked about their efforts to improve **snow removal**. The property owner is primarily responsible for clearing the sidewalks. Routes for street snow plows have been standardized. Some subcontractors whose work was unsatisfactory have not been rehired. In 2016, parking on some narrow streets will be restricted during snow emergencies. The Mortimer Street garage will provide free parking and the City is recruiting churches to also provide free parking. Finally, residents should be able to call 311 and find out when their street might be plowed.

--**Sew Green** has opened at 264 -268 Arnett Blvd. The store is a not for profit that recycles sewing and knitting and craft materials, and that provides sewing education. It is open six days a week...Monday to Saturday.

--Michael Brooks, **Pathways to Peace:** Pathways to Peace is a City program that began in 1998. Currently, they have seven staff members. Mike works to prevent youth gang involvement in SW Rochester. Youth most at risk need jobs and constructive activities and a second chance. Mike shared excerpts from the locally produced video, *The Front Row*.

--**Treasurer's Report:** As expected, 19th WCA will run a deficit in 2015 of about \$4,000.

--Funds have recently been donated to 19th WCA for spelling bee and related projects. Executive Committee will develop a plan.

--Chris Buitrago and Jay Ross were chosen to serve as delegate representatives to Executive Committee.

--MaryDan Cooper will chair the **History and Archives Committee**.

--**MLK Luminary event** is planned for January 18. Zola Brown is the chair.

--SW Common Council reported that funds will be available for **lead abatement** and owner occupied and investor occupied properties.

--On Dec. 18, a **youth poetry bee** will be held at East HS.

--Annual 19th WCA **Skating party** will be held on Feb 13, from 1 to 4pm.

Poster Contest

The 19th Ward Community Association's 50th Celebration

Poster Contest participant's art creations were displayed at the Convention in November. The young artists were asked to create a poster describing "How the 19th Ward Neighborhood has made a difference in their lives," and 50 entries were submitted. Fourteen youths ranging from 6 - 14 years were awarded Barnes & Noble Gift certificates for first, second & third place. All the participants received art items and certificates of appreciation for their art work. Here are two of the winning posters, and 4 of the winners.



photo by John Boutet



Our Holiday Party on December 12 was so much fun!!!



Santa came, presents were found under the tree, the young folks (and some not so young) had a great time creating artistic decorations, the cookies were delicious, and a large box for donations was overflowing with hats, mittens, canned goods, clothing, and personal items for the students at School 44. Books, books, and more books were distributed for holiday reading and gift-giving.



photos by John Boutet

Teen Programs at Arnett Library in January

January 13. 3:30-5:30. Teen Maker Night

Create, innovate and challenge your mind. Join us for our new teen series that focuses on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math).

January 27. 3:30-5:30. Teen Game Night Snacks. Wii games. Short book talk.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE – Snow Removal

Remember to shovel the sidewalk in front of your house. And if you have a neighbor who cannot shovel, you might offer to help that person out.

At the last Delegates' Council meeting, one of our guest speakers was Stephanie Woodward from the Center for Disability Rights. Stephanie is in a wheelchair and needs to go to her job each day. She rides her wheelchair to the bus stop and then takes a bus to work. She told stories about how difficult that is in the winter, especially last winter. She had other stories to tell from independent residents who have physical disabilities. One person lost her job last winter because there were so many days when she could not use the sidewalk. And then of course there is the poor mail carrier who struggles through the snow and ice so that we can receive our mail each day. Let's decide now to keep the sidewalks clear, and while we are at it, let's decide now who can shovel out which hydrants. Fires burned out of control last year while firefighters searched for and shoveled out hydrants.



It may not seem so during the mild weather days, but winter is coming, and we should be prepared to be safe and to help our neighbors be safe.

Square Fair Planning

Believe it or not, the Square Fair committee is in full swing. Their next meeting is Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 PM at the Office, 216 Thurston Road. They are hoping to fill the meeting room that night, so please think about joining them.

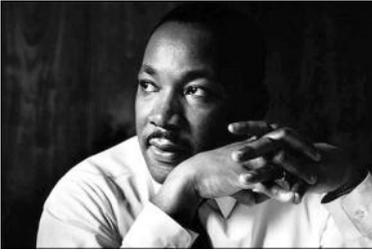
19th Ward Community Association Annual Candlelight Dinners Saturday, February 6, 2016



For over 25 years, it has been a winter custom to share dinner together throughout the 19th Ward, combining old and new neighbors, for an evening to celebrate community. A host will sign up and volunteer to have as many guests as he/she can fit around the dining room table, or have a buffet. The week before the event he/she will call each guest and tell them what to bring-appetizer, wine, salad, etc. and what time to arrive. In the past there have been games, singing, discussions; always lively, always fun.

As guest, you will sign up for the evening and state how many adults in your household will be attending. This year we will also have a family dinner; if you would like to attend the family dinner, state how many are in your group. Plan to **sign up by January 19** by calling the Association office, 328-6571.

This is a great way to welcome new neighbors, so if there are new neighbors on your block, invite them to attend with you.



ILLUMINATING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY



Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On January 18, 2016 the 11th annual Luminary event will occur. The Nineteenth Ward Community Association has practiced many of the values of Martin Luther King's concept "The Beloved Community". Over the years 19th ward residents have continued to advocate for fair, affordable housing and home ownership, quality local schools, community/police collaborations for crime prevention and a wide range of policies and services to promote and preserve a vibrant urban community.

We ask that neighbors join us in lighting up our neighborhood with luminaries, lanterns and flashlights to express our solidarity with the values of Martin Luther King's Beloved Community and his important campaigns against racism, poverty and militarism. In these challenging times we want to focus on the importance of coming together as a neighborhood community to celebrate our resilience and to join together to participate and support each other in the on-going work of not only organizing but creating a community that recognizes the values of the Beloved Community.

We hope again in 2016 we can spread luminaries from every block, district and church, and area organizations. Residents will be encouraged to host a Hot Spot, a great way to get to know your neighbors. Invite them over for Hot Chocolate, conversation; use your imagination to celebrate this wonderful evening. We hope to see celebrations in areas throughout the ward between 6pm and 8pm on January 18, 2016.

We will have more details coming soon for the Martin Luther King Jr. program event Saturday, January 16, 2016 at the Arnett Library.

This is a block by block, district by district event. To volunteer or for further information contact Zola B Brown 585-210 -9370 (zolabbrown@gmail.com) .

Celebrating Community

One of the highlights of the 2015 Anniversary year was the gorgeous quilt that was designed and created by Cele Jackson and her team of quilt making experts. Cele creatively laid out some of our memorable 19th Ward T-shirts, blocked them, and set them into a lovely background fabric. Her artistic talent is quite amazing. We sold quilt raffle tickets from June through November, raising over \$700.00 for the Association. Cele donated her time, the cost of supplies, and the labor cost of others who worked with her. At the Convention in November the winning raffle ticket was chosen, and the owner of the quilt was announced. We are pleased that Landy Atkinson, a long time member of the Association, and a very active participant in the 19th Ward neighborhood is the proud owner of this lovely quilt. Congratulations to Landy, and to his wife, Deb Wight, who he shares this quilt with.



Save the date of Sat, Feb 13th, 2016 Family/Student Skating Party

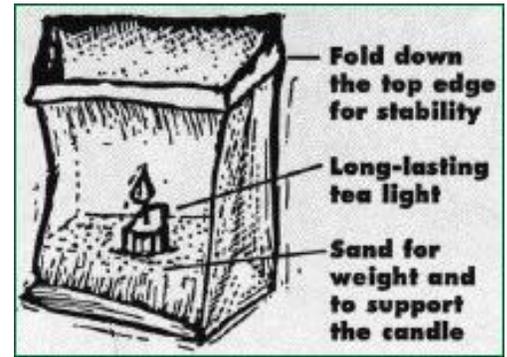


Save the date of Sat, Feb 13th, 2016 for the annual ice skating party at the Genesee Valley Sports Complex at 131 Elmwood Ave from 1 to 4pm. This community-building event between the southwest community and UofR students has always been a crowd-pleaser with free food, free skating, great music, games and lots of fun on the ice. Bring the whole family to enjoy this free event as a kick-off to February Recess! For more information about this event or to volunteer call or email Angie Burch at 338-2621 or acburch26@gmail.com.

Luminaries

Want to make your own?

Luminaries can easily be crafted at home from white or pastel paper bags embellished with cutouts, enough sand to keep the bag upright, and a votive candle set inside. Most homes need at least 10 bags out front to be effective.



Other possibilities for luminary making

Canning jars with tea lights or candles inside work very well

The following instructions use a ½ gal plastic milk jug:

1. Slice a long narrow 'hole' in plastic jug just below bottom of handle, and not slicing all around.

Place rock salt in bottom of jug to serve as a weight.

2. Center the votive candle (or battery-powered tea light) in the rock salt. Press down lightly to nest in place. Only a quarter-inch of the candle's base is surrounded by the rock salt. Keep candle visible, not covered.
3. Light the candle outdoors.
4. Do not cover the carton with a cap or stopper. The open top works like a chimney.
5. Hold the carton at the base. Don't use the bend-able handle to carry the lit luminary. Place the plastic carton base where you want the luminary displayed. The sidewalk edge or a driveway border are good places. The plastic carton permits the luminary to nestle in the snow.
6. Keep the air-entry hole away from the wind. Let a solid side face the wind.
7. Keep the luminary level. Tilted candles burn unevenly and more quickly.
8. For best results, use a votive candle or tealight.
9. To save for next year, remove candle, pour the rock salt into a plastic bag. Put the luminary instructions in the rock salt bag and seal tightly. Place the bag inside the plastic carton. Store the luminary kit upright in a dry place away from children's reach.



Call the office 328-6571, or send an email to 19thward@19wca.org to add your front yard to the MLK hotspots. The date this year is Monday, January 18. We will once again set luminaries outside our homes and light up the neighborhood. We can cook marshmallows on the fire, eat cookies, drink hot chocolate, or simply tell stories. We can walk from house to house, enjoying the light of the candles, and the warmth of friends and neighbors. Call the office if you would like to be part of the planning, or if you can assist with distribution of flyers.



◀ December		January 2016					February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!	2	
3	4	5	6 8:30 AM Brooks Arnett Merchants at It's About Love	7	8	9 Spelling Bee prepara- tion – need tutors at Arnett Library	
10	11	12 6:30 PM New Dele- gate Orientation at 216 Thurston	13 8:00 AM Genesee Merchants at NSC 7:00 PM Schools Committee at 216 Thurston 7:00 PM PCIC at Staybridge	14 11:00 AM Housing Committee at NSC 7:00 PM Delegates Council at Arnett Library	15	16 MLK program at Arnett Library	
17	18 MLK Luminaries throughout the 19 th	19	20 8:00 AM Chili Ave Merchants at Livies 6:30 PM Square Fair meeting at 216 Thurston	21	22	23 10:00 AM New Delegate Orienta- tion at 216 Thurston	
24	25	26	27 6:30 PM Public Safety Committee at Roch Pres Home	28	29	30	
31	Notes:						



The 19th Ward Neighborhood

Call the Office for contact information. Be sure your Delegate is aware of your interests and concerns.

- District 1 Marta Driscoll
- District 2 OPEN
- District 3 Penny Griffin
- District 4 OPEN
- District 5 Zola Brown
- District 6 Don Hanks
- District 7 Carleen Wilenius
- District 8 Mary Fran Kolbuc
- District 9 OPEN
- District 10 OPEN
- District 11 Ron Stallworth
- District 12 Leigh McMullen
- District 13 Harlan Ost
- District 14 Charlotte Giebel
- District 15 Laura Suda
- District 16 Marita Smith
- District 17 John DeMott
- District 18 Harriette Royer
- District 19 Bryan Babcock
- District 20 Angie Burch
- District 21 John Boutet
- District 22 OPEN
- District 23 Beverly Usher

Please don't toss this newsletter; pass it on to someone else who might be interested in the information.

19th Ward Community Association
216 Thurston Road
Rochester, New York 14619

