



Rochester Weed & Seed

Weed & Seed is a community driven strategy to "Weed" out crime and "Seed" the community with services



Neighborhood Newsletter

September/October 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE WEED & SEED SITE COORDINATOR

I have been the Weed & Seed Site Coordinator for 9 months now and I am so thankful for those who have made it possible for me to learn my job. It would not be possible for me to coordinate this strategy without the dedicated residents, and community partners. So many of you have played such a important role to the success the community has shared. Thank you!

Weed & Seed now has a county hosted website (Rochesterweedandseed.org). Check it out! I will be updating this website on a regular basis. I will also be attaching a link with the latest Weed & Seed Newsletter to provide timely updates on the "Weeding" and "Seeding" progress in the Rochester community.

If you live within the Rochester School District boundaries won't you consider joining us? You could have a hand in making our neighborhood a better place or just be a voice. Please join us. Resident participation is a very important part of our Steering Committee. Weed & Seed is not intended to provide all the answers to all the problems neighborhoods face, but Weed & Seed can provide inspiration, advice and direction to all those willing to partner for a brighter future.

Continued on Page 3

RESTORING ROCHESTER

INTERVIEW WITH LOWELL DEGUISE

Downtown Rochester In the 1950's



Gene and Janet Weaver have been active citizens in the Rochester community for many years. The Weavers have always wanted to improve on this wonderful town and they have a great passion for doing so. They have passed on this passion to their children who live and work in the community as well. The Weavers contributions date back to the early 60's when Gene along with many community members founded the Rochester Water Association. Later in 1978, Gene and Janet purchased what is now the Remax office and restored the building. Since then they have continued their work around the town of Rochester.

In 1978 the Weavers partnered up with Kathy and Lowell Deguise to improve the quality of life in Rochester. This included purchasing old buildings and revitalizing them. Their first project was the old Larry's Chevron. After that they worked together and restored what is now the Thorebecke's building next to Lowell's accounting office. Their current project started when the Deguise's accounting business expanded and they outgrew their existing building. The four of them purchased the Rochester Highway garage building (located next to the Rochester Community Center) and are now converting it to look as it did in the 1950's. The new 50's style building will provide auto parts, auto restorations and tractor sales. Their next project will be the revitalization of the two-story Miller building, which they hope to start on before the end of the year.

Lowell Deguise does more then just revitalizing buildings. He recently had discussions with the state about installing sidewalks on the south side of Highway 12. The sidewalks will run from the Rochester Mercantile to Rochester Middle School. This will enable students to walk safely to the community center. The state has put aside some funding for this project; however, Rochester will require additional funding to complete the project.



Revitalization of the old Rochester Auto building

Continued on Page 3

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything"

-George Bernard Shaw

Weed & Seed Goals for the Rochester Neighborhood

Weed & Seed has four areas of concentration:

- Law enforcement
- Community Policing
- Neighborhood Restoration
- Prevention/Intervention/Treatment

These are some of Weed & Seed goals for the next year :

- More outreach to under served populations in the area
- Focus on more positive activities for school age children and strategies for older teens, address the high rate of drinking, violence, alcohol and drug use among middle and high school students
- Develop a process for a community planning strategy - "Rochester Vision 2020" to begin addressing issues of housing, jobs, transportation and social services to continue to reduce incidences of crime and substance abuse in the Rochester area



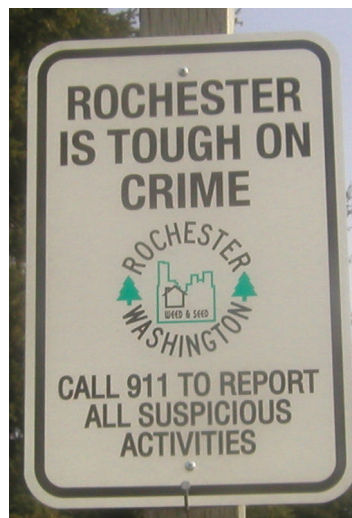
ALL THIS INFORMATION AND A COPY OF ALL THE STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES CAN BE FOUND ON [HTTP://WWW.ROCHESTERWEEDANDSEED.ORG/](http://www.rochesterweedandseed.org/)

TARGET CRIMES	2002	2006
Meth Lab Seizures	126	30
Burglary	193	95
Drug Arrests	74	40
Aggravated Assault	73	30

8 ways for residents to prevent crime

- Communicate clearly and honestly with law enforcement
- Listen to your “gut” and always pay attention to your surroundings
- Keep your front and back porch lights on in the evening
- Walk or ride around your block
- Know your neighbors
- Record any detailed descriptions of illegal activity in your neighborhood
- Talk to your neighborhood youth
- Keep youth involved in programs that they can call their own

Please help the community “Weed” out crime by reporting all suspicious activities by dialing 911. If it is not an emergency the 911 operator will be able to transfer you to the right department.



THANK YOU TO REMAX FOR VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME AND CLEANING UP THE FRONT OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Written by Brian Wirzbicki

At the Rochester Primary School and at Grand Mound Elementary School we have been fortunate enough to receive \$2,000 per year from the Rochester Weed & Seed program. This funding has supported our on-going programs in addressing conflict resolution and problem-solving strategies. By teaching students how to resolve conflicts in positive and appropriate ways it allows for a safer school and community climate. Recent funds have helped to support our Second Step and Kelso Choices programs, the Conflict Managers program, and other curriculums addressing decision-making skills. We want to thank the Rochester Weed & Seed for their continued support.

Brian Wirzbicki
Ground Mound Elementary
<http://www.rochester.wednet.edu/>



IF YOU KNOW OF A COMMUNITY MEMBER WHO "SEEDS" THE ROCHESTER COMMUNITY PLEASE CONTACT AIMEE AT 273-9175.

SITE COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Often times a few people speak up for the entire neighborhood. If you have ever considered volunteering, now is the time! Please call me, visit the website, or stop by my office located at the Rochester Community Center for more information. Decisions made this Fall and Winter will likely influence the direction our community will go after the Weed & Seed strategy is replaced by a community driven strategy.

Please contact me for all volunteer opportunities in the Rochester community.

Aimee Danielson
Rochester Weed & Seed Site Coordinator
360-273-9175
Aimee_weedandseed@comcast.net

RESTORING ROCHESTER (CONTINUED)

As Lowell looks ahead to the year 2020, he envisions the incorporation of Rochester. Growth to the community will include additional restaurants, professional services and variety stores.

Both families are good examples of citizens who "Seed" the community with their ideas, contributions, and dedication.

Rochester thanks you!

THANK YOU TO BAILEY'S IGA, MCDONALDS, DAIRY QUEEN, SUBWAY, AND FIGARO'S FOR THEIR DONATIONS FOR OUR WEED & SEED COLORING CONTEST WINNERS!

Partners Seeding Successes During the Summer



- ROOF's Kids Place provided a summer program for 52 children
- Big Brothers & Sisters provided "Bigs" for 18 children
- Boys & Girls Club served 92 children in their summer camp
- Rochester Ground Mound Park had their grand opening for their new walking path
- Weed & Seed and partners provided family fun on Swede Day
- Boys & Girls Club trained 13 Jr. Staff this summer

THANK YOU TO EVERYBODY WHO DONATED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO ROOF COMMUNITY SERVICES. THEY WERE ABLE PROVIDED 202 CHILDREN WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

Weed & Seed Steering Committee Members

- Big Brothers & Sisters of TC
- Boys & Girls Club of TC
- Community Residents
- Community Businesses
- Community Youth Services
- Chehalis Tribe
- Educational School District 113
- Family Education & Support
- Ground Mound Rochester Fire District
- Rochester School District
- Rochester Community Library
- Rochester Ground Mound Park Association
- ROOF Community Services
- Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Thurston County Commissioners
- Thurston County Sheriff's Office
- Thurston County Public Health & Social Services
- Thurston County Parks
- Thurston County Juvenile Court
- TOGETHER!
- U.S. Attorney's Office
- Washington State Department of Corrections

You can find out more information on these organizations and links to their websites by going to <http://www.rochesterweedandseed.org/>

Please pick up your Rochester resource book & neighbor watch signs for free at the Weed & Seed office.

