



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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P.O. Box 10127, Rochester, New York 14610
<http://browncroftna.org>

Winter 2021-22

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BNA FOOD DRIVE

BNA is hosting a Food Drive to support **Foodlink**, which partners with hundreds of hunger-relief agencies and distributes more than 19 million pounds of food annually. We want to support their goal of building a healthy community.



When: Saturday, January 15th

Time: 10:00am to 1:00pm

Drop off location: True North Church, Winton Road near Juniper.

This is the first time that BNA has taken this initiative and it is appropriate for it to be scheduled on Martin Luther King weekend as a community service project. Along with food items we will be collecting new **SOCKS** to be distributed to homeless shelters.

Suggestions for healthy donations include:

- Tuna or chicken canned in water
- Peanut butter
- Canned beans and canned vegetables and tomato products (*low sodium preferred*)
- Canned fruits packed in juice,
- 100% fruit juices
- Grains: brown rice, oats, and whole wheat pasta

Items to avoid: glass containers, perishable products, home canned or home-made goods, baby food or formula, non-food items, past expiration dated foods, vitamins or medicine, soda, cookies, and candy

We hope that you will get the word out to friends and neighbors. Volunteers are welcome to assist on January 15th and to deliver items to Foodlink on Tuesday, January 18th. For more information contact Ann Kanthor at 482-0704 or annkanthor@gmail.com

If you are unable to drop items off on January 15th please contact Ann to make other arrangements. Financial donations to Foodlink at 1999 Mt. Read Blvd. Rochester, NY 14615 are always welcome.

From the President...

Cassy Petsos

The holidays are almost passed and BNA must get back to business.

The Board wishes to thank the neighbors who have sent in their membership dues. There was a fantastic response to our membership drive despite the complications of last year and the change in the scheduling of the drive. This show of support for the neighborhood association is gratifying to the Board and the volunteers. In addition to paying the \$10 annual dues, many members donated an additional amount. We are working on getting the membership cards and letters out with the help of your street representatives.

Speaking of volunteers – based on the membership applications, we have some new people volunteering, which we hope to be able to rely upon for current and future projects. Thank you and welcome aboard. We look forward to meeting you.

Although it appears the world is not out of the woods from the covid viruses, BNA will continue with events and work parties where social distancing is easy to do. Instead of our Winter Gathering of yore, traditionally held in January, we will be holding a food drive to contribute to the great work Foodlink has been doing, especially in these times. Donors will be able to drive up and leave food items, which our masked volunteers will pack up and drive over to Foodlink.

Additionally, a project idea has been mulled over that would take a core of enthused people to make happen – installing a labyrinth in the Browncroft Rose Garden. You

ROBERT MALLEY, PAST PRESIDENT OF BNA, PASSED AWAY

Robert (Bob) Malley died on October 17th at age 86. Bob lived at 303 Browncroft Boulevard. He served as BNA President in 1983 and 1984.

Though his fame in the Rochester community was connected to his convivial ownership of the famous Donuts Delite on Culver Road and the Highland Diner on Clinton Avenue, and for his interests in, and collection of, vintage cars, he will be revered in the memory of many in Browncroft for his historic act of preservation as the plaintiff on the civil lawsuit “Malley vs. Hannah”, which went all the way to the State Court of Appeals (New York’s highest court) in 1985, and proved that the Browncroft Subdivision deed restrictions were still valid.

Bob had a great love of this neighborhood, and undertook this legal action at great expense to himself when a developer sought to build double houses on Newcastle Road when the Christian Reform church burned down at the corner of Browncroft Boulevard. He

can find out more about that in the article below. Also, see the “Friendly Yards” article.

Thank you for caring about our Browncroft neighborhood in any number of ways, whether it be helping out your neighbors, taking care to sensitively maintain your property, following the City’s rules of refuse and other regulations, or planting trees.



organized a large group of neighbors, who also contributed to fight the development; but he shouldered the bulk of the costs and risk of bringing the suit.

Bob’s strong preservation commitment set an example, and positioned

Browncroft to remain a desirable single family residential neighborhood as long as his neighborhood successors follow in his footsteps.

[It should be noted that the Browncroft Neighborhood Association, as a non-property owner, was not a party in the action.]



Welcome to the newest tree to be replanted back into the Historic Browncroft Landscape at 55 Windemere by the Tripp family. This was a much needed addition to this stretch of Windemere that is missing so many of the original trees along the inside of the sidewalk.

FRIENDLY YARDS

The current trend in gardening is all about being supportive of the larger ecological landscape. How we humans plant our urban yards and parks can, and does, have an affect on the broader natural world.

“In the past, we have asked one thing of our gardens: that they be pretty. Now they have to support life, sequester carbon, feed pollinators and manage water.”

— DOUG TALLAMY

Our built environment has already usurped and fractured natural habitats. We cannot undo that. What we can do is

1. Refrain from planting foreign species in our yards that escape into our forests and displace native species that support the kaleidoscope of wildlife, particularly pollinators, that underpins all life on this planet, including our own.

2. Plant native trees, shrubs and flowers that support wildlife with food and shelter opportunities, and

3. Use more of our yard space for trees, shrubs and plants instead of esthetically overvalued turf.

4. Stop using pesticides and herbicides.

The good news is that friendly yards can be more beautiful; require less labor, noise and smelly gasoline to maintain; use less water; provide us with sheltering shade in the heat of summer; and do their part to mitigate climate change.

Doug Tallamy explores compelling reasons on his web site (<https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>), in his books and in lectures (available on Youtube) why putting

46 SCHOOL BOOKS



Once again at the beginning of the School year BNA, thanks to the work of Ann Kanthor, provided 40 gift wrapped books (2 books each) for the kindergarten students at #46 School. The total expenditure, approved by the BNA Board of Directors, was \$493.89. Ann hopes to continue this project next year and will probably use the Hippocampus Bookstore again as they have a clear understanding of our needs and have given us a generous 20% discount.

BNA received a thank you from Emily Hasler at the school:

*Dear Browncroft Neighborhood Association,
We are blown away by your continued generosity. Our students experienced so much joy while opening, discovering, and reading their new books! We appreciate the high quality and thoughtful selection of the books and are confident they will continue to help foster a love of reading and learning for years to come.*

Many thanks!

Sincerely,

The School #46 kindergarten students, teachers, and families.

our urbanized landscapes back into the natural ecosystem is in our own best interest. He shows examples of beautiful yards that are also eco-friendly.

There are “Color ... Green” groups in the city and county. See Color Fairport, Brighton, Pittsford, Southwedge or, Monroe County Green websites, which are full of good information. Also, the New York State DEC website is very informative listing invasive species that should not be planted and/or

should be weeded out when encountered, before they spread into our parks -- garlic mustard and Japanese knot weed to name a few.

A “Color Browncroft Green” initiative could help residents build toward a greener, naturally beautiful, as well as historic, landscape. Let’s explore that. Look for future articles with plant lists and photos illustrating how to work toward healthy “friendly yards”. Volunteers are needed to help with internet publishing, etc.

CRIME REPORT

It is not new information to any of us that there has been an uptick in crime all around Rochester.

In Browncroft, as in other neighborhoods, in addition to the ever circulating thieves who trek through our yards checking for unlocked car doors, there have been a few incidences of greater concern. A Corwin Road home was broken into during the day on December 1st at approximately 8:00 a.m.

Also, there has been suspicious activity seen on Corwin Road in the late night or early morning hours that appeared to be individuals in separate cars meeting up in the street, possibly conducting an exchange of some kind. The neighbors have been sharing this information and are poised to alert the Rochester Police Department if any more activity like this is witnessed. Cameras help, but only if they are on and their activity alerts are reported promptly to the police.

Undoubtedly, other neighbors in Browncroft may have additional incidences known to them, or have seen suspicious activity but not reported it to BNA, or even to the police. The police meet with the neighborhoods once a month, currently by Zoom, under the Police and Citizens Interaction Committee (PCIC) initiative. They report to the neighborhoods what has occurred in our section, and listen to the neighborhoods' concerns. Our section includes Browncroft, North Winton Village, Beechwood and a few others. Our City Council member, Mary Lupien, usually attends, as well. The meeting is open to anyone interested. Therefore, if you would like to attend please contact Holly Petsos at 288-0955.



Mounted police rode through Browncroft on September 14. Officers Joanna Woodward on Dusty and Nick Romeo on Duncan

Residents should continue to follow law enforcement recommendations that have often been reported in this newsletter: Lock your doors with dead bolt locks. This advice seems elementary, yet an undue amount of robberies occur because doors are left unlocked! Do not leave purses or electronics in view of windows. Lock your car doors and do not leave valuables in them. Do not leave tables, chairs and garbage totes in positions in the yard that invite thieves to use them for climbing into windows. Have your property lit by motion sensor lights that announce intruders. Close garage doors when you are out. If you have cameras, such as Ring, make sure the batteries remain charged. Call the police when you see suspicious activity such as people in your neighbors' yards who are not the neighbors. This requires that you know your neighbors, so get to know your neighbors.

The BNA Crime Committee Chairperson position is vacant. Anyone concerned about crime and neighborhood safety who could attend the PCIC meetings for BNA and report back to the Board, as well as develop neighborhood safety projects, should contact BNA.

LABYRINTH GARDEN



A labyrinth is a maze-like pattern of a meandering path that leads to the center. Following the path slowly is a relaxing and meditative experience. It is not a maze, as the path is continuous with no choices to make. The coiled walkway is contained within a smaller area than a linear path would use.

Would a labyrinth in the grass at the Browncroft Rose Garden be something that the neighborhood community and the City of Rochester might support?

Labyrinths are becoming popular in private and public gardens locally and around the world. They have been around for thousands of years in many cultures, such as the one on the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France and grounds of Danure Castle in Scotland.

A labyrinth drawn in the center of the Browncroft Rose Garden would have the benefit of providing another passive recreational use to this garden park. Additionally, because the pattern is recessed in the grass, it would not visually change this historically designated landscape, or interfere with current uses or the grass mowers.

Is anyone interested in working on this project? Contact Cassy at 288-0955.

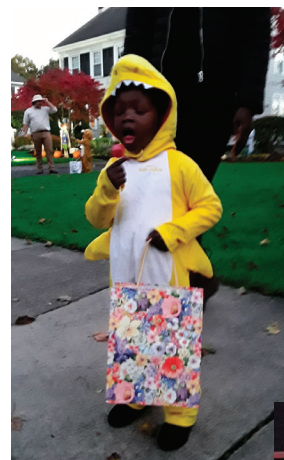


Labyrinth at Unitarian Church, Winton Rd.

Halloween Was Back In 2021!

2020 was a particularly scary year due to the virus. All the would-be trick-or-treaters that year were spooked away.

This year the fun was back and the atmosphere in the Browncroft streets was gleeful. Here are some pictures to enjoy in retrospect.

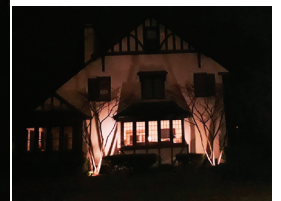


Browncroft Christmas Lights

Browncroft was the first local area neighborhood to decorate house exteriors with lights. It was such a sensation in 1918 that the Rochester Police were here to control traffic. A Ramsey Park house even had second story exterior outlets to accommodate Christmas light plugs. The tradition continues ...



Ramsey Park c1919 at the Fenyvessy home



Editor's Note: These examples are a small representation of the many wonderfully decorated homes. They are limited not only by space, but by my photographic limitations in capturing the displays.