



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973 - Volume #181

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

Fall 2014

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Presenting



125 YEARS OF ROCHESTER'S PARKS

BY KATIE EGGERS COMEAU

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22ND

at 7:30

**Christ The Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
1000 N. Winton Road**



**WHETHER YOUR INTEREST IS NATURE, RECREATION,
URBAN DESIGN OR SOCIAL HISTORY, THIS TALK IS FOR YOU.**

Katie will trace the city's many parks from their 19th-century beginnings through to the present. Learn about Rochester's Olmsted legacy in such parks as Highland, Seneca and Genesee Valley, as well as many city squares and parkways. The park system's story continues through to the present outlining the evolving social purposes and landscape designs in the city park system's history; and includes our 20th century additions such as Manhattan Square and Turning Point Park.

Katie is the architectural historian at Bero Architecture PLLC, and a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Association for Olmsted Parks. Prior to that, she was the Director of Preservation Services at the Landmark Society of Western New York, where her projects included extensive documentation of, and advocacy for, Rochester's historic park system. This slide show and lecture was given at the Rundel Memorial Library last spring to highlight the fall 2013 edition of the same name, which she authored, for the journal "Rochester History" of the Rochester Public Library. Katie is also a former Browncroft resident of Beresford and Croydon Roads.

Join your neighbors for a stimulating fall meeting event!

President's Message:

Challenge to the Neighborhood

The Browncroft Neighborhood Association was founded in 1973, which makes this amazing organization more than forty years old! The BNA's constitution states that the purpose of the organization is to promote, organize, and carry on those activities which are intended to maintain and improve the character and quality of neighborhood living in the Browncroft area.

Recently, we have all been reminded that our quality of living is not to be taken for granted. We have become too comfortable and less vigilant and have unknowingly provided the opportunity for criminal activity. Cars have been left over night in driveways, unlocked and first floor windows and garage doors have been left open.

Of greatest concern, a neighbor was robbed while walking on the street. Clearly, the quality of life in the BN has been dramatically affected by these events as demonstrated by the 50+ neighbors who attended a recent meeting with the Rochester Police Department.

The quality of life in our neighborhood is directly related to the involvement of its residents. The BNA no longer has a PAC-TAC* for lack of volunteers. The BNA board has several vacant positions. Each year we are desperate for volunteers to work in the Rose Garden, chair a committee or help to complete a project. The character of our wonderful neighborhood will not be maintained without your involvement.

If you would like more information about PAC-TAC go to <http://>

www.cityofrochester.gov/pactac/. If you would like to sign up, complete the application found on the above site and contact our neighborhood Safety and Crime Prevention Officer, Anthony Belliard, AB1303@CityofRochester.gov. If you would like to volunteer for a committee or project you can contact me at LASNSS@rit.edu or 288-6744 and we can discuss your area of interest.

We have 672 households in the BN. Imagine what we could accomplish if each household volunteered just one hour!

Linda Siple, BNA President

*Police and Citizens Together Against Crime

STREET LIGHT UPDATE

The installation of the new street lights are targeted for completion by December, 2014. The project is composed of 5 phases (see Spring 2014 Crier* for details).

The scope of the work consists of installing 159 new concrete light poles, new fixtures and a conduit system. The contractor will utilize as much of the existing conduit



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BNA NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The 2015 Membership Drive kicks off with this issue of the Browncroft Crier and I would like to say a few words about the importance of membership in the Browncroft Neighborhood Association.

Your membership provides support to an organization that builds relationships between neighbors. It helps us become familiar with each other's needs and interests. We can more effectively communicate our concerns about our neighborhood.

Through the BNA, we can present a singular voice to local governments and organizations. City and County services can be accessed more efficiently and effectively.

The BNA organizes and runs public meetings with guest speakers on topics of neighborhood interest and three much anticipated events; the Winter Gathering, the Annual Picnic and The Biennial Ultimate Garage Sale.

Additionally, this newsletter, which is published four times a year, keeps all residents informed of the current issues of concern to the neighborhood, with its circulation to 680 households.

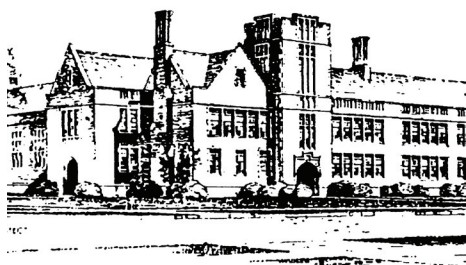
The Browncroft Rose Garden at the corner of Merchants Road and Browncroft Boulevard has been kept in bloom for 42 years by the Beautification Committee.

Through your membership in the Browncroft Neighborhood Association you help continue the efforts of your neighbors to build a cohesive, concerned and safer community.

Please consider joining if you're not a member yet. If you are al-

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UPDATE ON SCHOOL 46:



The BNA has been working with T'Hani Pantoja, Principal of School 46 and Michael Schmidt, Chief of Operations for the Rochester City School District (RCSd) to address the appearance of the portable structure located south of the school building.

Currently, the portable houses a Pre-K class and an art class. The portable classroom is necessary due to the lack of sufficient instructional space in the school building. The portable has been repainted a shade of green, and will be re-landscaped in the next several weeks.

School 46 is included in phase two of the school modernization project. The Facilities Modernization Program is overseen by the Joint School Construction Board that has members appointed by Mayor Warren and Superintendent Vargas. There are a number of schools that have work scheduled for Phase 2.

All architectural drawings must be approved by the New York State Education Department. The projected start date for the first group of phase two projects is the fall of 2017. The BNA will continue to work with School 46 officials to address the space issue in the school. Ivan Lennon is the BNA Board Liaison to School 46.

Linda A. Siple

BNA ANNUAL PICNIC

How lucky we were to have had such perfect weather for our annual picnic given the rain the days before. We didn't even have to suffer the mosquitos because of a lovely light breeze.

As usual our neighbors out did themselves by bringing the most scrumptious dishes to pass making this a memorable time.

Our prize winning hat contestants were Abi Genthner (children's group) and Martin Scott (adult group). Prizes that were purchased by BNA were awarded by Andrea Zawieski.

Linda Siple did a great job as our grill



master and seemed to really like the job!

Thank you to all of those who attended, including our crime pre-



vention officer from the Rochester Police Department, Anthony Belliard. Holly Petsos

DRIVERS WANTED

Be on Your Way with BNA,

A Browncroft Home For A Life Time Volunteer Transportation Service continues to provide rides to medical appointments and for necessary errands. The usage for the service has gradually increased so that we are in need of some new drivers. Maybe you?

Volunteer drivers are vetted and trained by staff of Lifespan's Give A Lift Program. Mileage is reim-

bursable if so desired.

The process is as follows: dispatcher sends driver an e-mail to request service. The first driver to respond to the request gets the assignment. The designated driver phones the client regarding availability of



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NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

As part of a new initiative by our Fire Chief, John Schreiber, the Rochester Fire Department has been visiting neighborhood association meetings in order to begin a dialogue between the two parties and for neighbors to learn about the Fire Department.

Their purpose is also to educate groups about fire danger and prevention, eliminate unsafe practices and check smoke detectors for neighbors. And of course they want us to meet our firefighters.

These are just a few areas of concern that the Fire Department hopes neighbors take away from this outreach program: 1.) Make sure house numbers are visible day and night, and large enough to be read from the street. 2.) Check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and 3.) In fall do not rake leaves around the fire hydrants, and in winter shovel snow out from around the hydrants.

It was a very nice experience having them stop by for a visit during a Board of Directors meeting. We will add more information from the Fire Department as these visits go forward.

Holly Petsos

Riders Wanted

**Be On Your Way With
BNA
transportation Program**

**To Call For A Ride:
733-4386**

Reserve 5 days in advance.

RACF RECOGNIZES TOM ARGUST WITH AWARD

Congratulations to our neighbor, Tom Argust of Gaslight Lane. Tom was the recipient of the Joe U. Pozner Founders Award given by the Rochester Area Community Foundation for philanthropic work. Tom was the former Commissioner of Community Development of the City of Rochester. Even though Tom retired from the City of Rochester he has continued to work

for

causes to make our community a better place and to be an example for others to share their time and knowledge with the com-

CRIME ALERT

During this summer we experienced an increase in crime in the neighborhood.

Cars were burglarized. Most had been left unlocked. Homes were also burglarized – some by way of open windows. Electronics, money and jewelry were taken.

There was a robbery at gun-point on Berwick Road. A cell phone was taken. The perpetrators were arrested and one of the individuals has pled guilty and is expected to be sentenced to five years in prison. The second perpetrator to the robbery is scheduled for a court hearing.

Please lock your windows if you are away from home or when you go up to bed. Lock your cars! And don't walk around oblivious to your surroundings while talking, texting or listening to music on your phone.

Please see the bulletin from the Rochester Police Department in this issue.

Holly Petsos



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:

**The fall clean up
in the Rose Garden
will be on Saturday
October 25 from
10:00-2:00.**

We need volunteers to help with cutting back roses, weeding and litter/debris pick-up. This task has been falling to a handful of the same volunteers who generously give of their time. If we had 25 volunteers we could finish this task in a few hours. This would make a wonderful "Family Volunteer" activity.

**Please contact Linda Siple at
lasnss@rit.edu to volunteer.**

Wear: Waterproof boots and pants, hat, thick gloves, long sleeves – come prepared with a rain coat. **Bring:** Hand clippers, loppers, kneeling pads

Winter Gathering (JAZZED UP)

Mark your calendars, find an outfit and rally the neighbors!

The 37th annual BNA Winter Gathering for 2015 will be held at Glendoveers, 2328 Old Browncroft Blvd., Friday, January 30th.

While we will always know this event as “the Winter Gathering” a theme will be added to the event to provide a more “light hearted” feel to post holiday dreary January.

The 2015 theme is “Bling Ball”. We invite you all to get your “shine on” by wearing some previously loved or not so loved formal or semi-formal dress, tuxedo, uniform or vintage suit you cannot part with.

Participation in the theme is optional and those that do participate are asked to recycle/reuse and not purchase new. The clothes you choose to wear will have a story behind them and you will be asked because inquiring minds will want to know.

Tickets will be \$24.00 per individual: \$48 per couple. Seating will be limited to the first 100 paid reservations.

Look for more details to follow on the BNA website and in the December issue of the Crier.

Andrea Zawieski

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS YOU CAN USE

Important New Law

In January 2012 a new law regarding lawn fertilizers became effective in New York State.

Lawn fertilizers cannot contain phosphorus, be applied between December 1 and April 1 and cannot be applied within 20 feet of any surface water.

Fertilizer landing on the sidewalks or paved areas **MUST** be immediately cleaned up and applied back on the lawn or containerized. For more information about lawn and yard care go to www.H2OHero.org.

Do you own a pool or back yard spa???

Pool/spa water should never be syphoned into the storm water system because it can become hazardous for aquatic life and our environment.

Chlorine, acid, algacides and other water treatment chemicals should be handled, stored, used and disposed of properly. Even the empty containers need proper cleaning before disposal. All wastewater from acid washing should be neutralized to pH between 6.0 and 7.0 and discharged to the lawn or sanitary sewer.

For more information about lawn and yard care go to www.H2OHero.org.

Creating a green infrastructure for your home:

Many of the downspouts in the Browncroft Neighborhood are connected to the storm water system. The purpose of this design was to prevent standing water issues.

Unfortunately, this impacts water quality. As rain flows across the roof, it collects sediments which are conveyed into our water way. Disconnecting the downspouts from your roof, and directing the water to a rain barrel, rain garden, or suitable lawn area will reduce the amount of water that enters the storm water system.

However, before you disconnect any downspout, it's important to give proper consideration to how the runoff will be managed so that it does not result in standing water or impact your home or adjacent properties.

Runoff should be conveyed at least 10 feet from the foundation to a flat location with enough space to properly soak it into the ground.

In addition, if you are experiencing water in your basement this may be due to a collapsed drain pipe to which your downspouts are connected. Disconnecting your downspouts and diverting the water to the lawn may help to reduce basement water.

Linda Siple

Going Green

Tip for Dog Owners

Several companies are now manufacturing a biodegradable bag for picking up dog waste. These environmentally-friendly waste bags are made of corn starch and recyclable plastic and break down faster than regular plastic bags.

ZONING NEWS

Earlier in the summer there was a zoning hearing regarding an application by a resident, to allow what would have been front yard parking. This situation was different in that it was also a corner parcel. The Zoning Board of Appeals denied the application and asked the owner to go back and hire a professional to design a plan to accommodate the cars and speak to the neighborhood to discuss what would be an acceptable plan. One issue that was clear with the Zoning Board was that front yard parking is not acceptable.

Holly Petsos

WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT?

A recent visit to City Hall brought me, in a roundabout way, to the Permitting Office and a rack full of very informative brochures on permits needed from the City of Rochester to do work on, or around, your home. I started taking one, then another and another and before long I had 10 different brochures.

Here is a list of some of them: fences or ramps, antennas, awnings, rain barrels, a new addition, new plumbing work (not repairs), any paving, pools, retaining walls, vehicle storage, and sheds.

This is not all instances you need a permit to do work, but hopefully it illustrates that a good place to begin, in order to save yourself time and money down the road, is to contact the City of Rochester's permit office at 428-6526, located in Room 121 B, City Hall, 30 Church Street; and/or Zoning Department at 428-7043.

Holly Petsos

GOOD FOUNDATIONS...

Need to Camouflage those new meters?

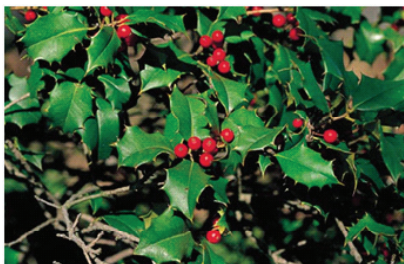
With the additions of the new outside gas meters on the front of the houses, due to the new RG&E gas mains going in on the Browncroft Subdivision streets, we thought it might be a good time to get some recommendations from the professionals about quality bushes that residents should consider when landscaping their foundation area. After all, the appearance of those darn meters can



Boxwood

detract from the curb appeal of your home if there is no visual distraction, in the form of an appealing landscaping. The following information can be useful to all of our residents, outside meters or not.

When asking for recommendations we stressed that we live in an historic neighborhood with early 20th century houses; and in addition that the recommended plants need to be 1.) evergreens as they must hide the box year



Holly



Yew (Taxus)

round, 2.) neat in habit, 3.) shade tolerant (because either they are on the north side of the house or because our neighborhood is well planted with mature trees), 4.) climate hardy both in terms of cold temperatures and strong enough to hold heavy snow without damage.

Our responding nurserymen were Bruce Zaretsky of **Zaretsky Associates**, Doug Lechner of **Clover Nurseries**, David Polvino of **Classic Edge Landscape, Inc. DBA Tschanz Landscape Service**, and Larry Grossman of **Grossman's Country Nursery**.



Pieris

Here is what they said:

David Polvino – “Here are a few ideas for shade plants; Evergreens- Yews, Andromeda, Pieris, Boxwoods, and Hemlocks (There are a few dwarf varieties that get about 8'-9' tall.); Deciduous plants- Japanese Maples, Hydrangea (certain varieties such as Anna Bell can take part shade) and Clethra, if these are

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Foundations

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clumped together they would still allow for some protection in the winter months.”

Doug Lechner – “Each house would have to be done on an individual basis. There are several items you could consider -- boxwood, pieris, holly, rhododendron. The new varieties out do not get too big. Pruning advice (for existing plants) would have to be handled on an individual basis, again -- size, shape, impact on house.”

Bruce Zaretsky - Good evergreens include plum yew (*Cephalotaxus harringtonia*) particularly the fastigiata cultivar, or a weeping yew, dwarf rhododendrons, ilex (hollies) such as sky pencil (*ilex crenata*) which is columnar, false cypress (*chamaecyparis*) especially the kosteri cultivar, pieris (also known as Andromeda), boxwood, especially green mountain. A non-evergreen that has winter interest is witch hazel.

Bruce also commented that it is not always about putting up a wall but rather creating a distraction. This was a concept also stressed by Larry Grossman. Bruce stated “I’m a big believer in architecture taking center stage in what I am going to do, and in an older neighborhood with public sidewalks I would definitely be pulling the sidewalk down to the public realm.”

Larry Grossman expressed the same idea. Rather than provide us with specific plant recommendations he said “Successful garden design creates a planting that compliments the architecture of the home... Here are my recommended steps to success: 1) Take a few photos of the overall garden with house in background from a

distance. 2) Take a few closer up photos of the garden with meter. 3) Bring them into the nursery (preferably printed out) for drawing on.”

A call to RG&E to find out if homeowners need to observe specific planting distance from the meter yielded this information: There is no restriction about planting too close to the meter. However, they ask that consideration be made for the meter reader to be able to get near enough to read it, and request pruning for his/her clearance through the bushes.

Cassy Petsos

Be On Your Way

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service and confirms details. The night before the service the driver calls the client to reaffirm travel arrangements. Driver meets the client at the door and guides them to the car. Driver escorts the client to the appointment and remains with them if the appointment is a short one. If a long appointment, driver may return at an agreed time to take the rider home or request to drive only one way. Driver escorts the rider to the door. Driver completes a brief report sent by the dispatcher.

Usually a driver will drive only once or twice a month. Drivers are pleased to be of service and clients are grateful--a nice combination indeed.

If you should be interested in joining the Be On Your Way volunteer driver group please contact dispatcher, Ann D. Weintraub, by October 25th at 482-8662 or at anndwein@frontiernet.net. In

early November Ann will host a meeting with prospective drivers to review roles and responsibilities and answer any questions.

We welcome you to join the driving team and make a positive difference to Browncroft residents in need of transportation.

Ann Weintraub

Street Lights

from page 2

system as possible using trenchless technology where possible.

Work also includes spot replacement of hazardous sidewalks in select locations and the installation of ADA compliant access ramps.

During the installation two-way traffic will be maintained. However, there will be parking restrictions on the side of the road where work is being done. Some access restrictions will occur during sidewalk replacement.

Mr. Sidney Reedhead, Resident Engineer from Bergmann Assoc. has been appointed the on-site project manager. His field office will be located at 272-274 Winton Road. When a street is being worked on the residents will receive a newsletter from Sid as a way to keep communication lines open. If a resident has a question or concern, Sid can be contacted at 585-737-8004.

Important: The street lights will be turned off during each of the installation phases. Residents are asked to leave on their porch lights as a way to provide ambient light.

Linda Siple

* <http://www.browncroftna.org/>

CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

FROM THE ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT



The Rochester Police Department would like to remind all city residents to follow these basic tips to deter crime:

1. Report to 911 immediately all suspicious activity such as persons loitering, going door to door, or the sound of glass breaking.
2. Report any attempt to break into your house, garage or vehicle, such as cuts on your window screens near the locks, broken auto glass or rummaging through your car.
3. Never leave items of any value in your car unattended.
4. Keep your doors, windows and garages locked when not at home (even when in the yard or at a neighbors).
5. Install and use deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
6. Notify a neighbor when you are going to be away.
7. Discontinue newspaper delivery when going on vacation.
8. Keep outside lights on all night AND use motion sensor lights all around your home.
9. Trim shrubs to deny burglars a hiding place, especially shrubs around windows.
10. Lock up ladders and trash toters where they cannot be used by a burglar.
11. Don't leave returnable cans etc. out for the "homeless".
12. Never open your door for a stranger.

Be a good neighbor...watch your neighbors' property.

Membership

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ready a member, we thank you and ask that you renew during this fall membership drive and continue your membership if you have not done so during 2014.

Enclosed in this newsletter is an envelope with which you can conveniently send in your 2014-2015 BNA dues. Please fill out the membership information to tell us your interests and to better enable BNA to contact you.

Robert McLoughlin
Treasurer

Welcome Two New Street Reps To The BNA Board

Joan Hopkins will be the street representative for **Newcastle Road**, replacing retiring Bob Genthner.

Ann Kanthor has accepted the post for **Dorchester Road**.

Many thanks to Bob for his many years of service to Newcastle Road. And thank you to Joan and Ann for stepping forward when needed.

Do you know who your street representative is?

Cars Are Just Gift Wrap for Your Valuables...



...thieves are shopping for free gifts!

DON'T GIVE THEM THE CHANCE!

REMEMBER:

- Park in well lit, well-traveled areas
- Always lock your car & close your windows
- Notify management, security or police of any suspicious activity
- Conceal purchases or personal belongings
- Lock valuables in trunk before you leave home



A Program of the
Rochester Police Department



City of Rochester, New York

Calendar of Events

October 22, 125 Years of Rochester Parks Fall Membership Meeting:
7:30 p.m. Christ the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

September 15 – November 15, BNA Membership Drive

Saturday 25, 2014, Fall Clean-up of Browncroft Rose Garden: 10:00-2:00

January 30, 2015, Winter Gathering: Friday