



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

May 2012

BNA Executive Committee

Officers:

President
Linda Siple, acting
Vice-President
Linda Siple
Secretary
Kathy Flynn
Treasurer

District Reps

Elm
Vacant
Corwin
Holly Petsos
Croydon
Vacant

BNA Voicemail:

234-0160

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BNA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 24th

7:30 P.M.

St. John the Evangelist Church
(Humboldt Street)

Election of Officers for 2012-2013

BNA Committee Updates

**Guest Speaker, Wayne Goodman, Executive Director of the
Landmark Society of Western New York**

Wayne Goodman has been the executive director at the Landmark Society since January 2011, having previously worked at Indiana Landmarks, one of the nation's largest preservation organizations. Mr. Goodman, who's talents include collaborative preservation planning and long-term partnerships, has said "Preservation is not a static theory. It's a vital part of any region's efforts to build and grow both community and economic capacity."

We look forward to his thoughts regarding the advantages of urban living and his engaging and persuasive presentation of how preservation is one of the most important tools for saving the city.

*Please join your neighbors at this annual celebration
of neighborhood solidarity and pride*

Save the Date!

**The BNA Annual Picnic
returns July 18th in Ellison Park**

5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

at Sycamore lodge

(off the south entrance on Blossom Road)

BNA provides the hot dogs, lemonade, paper plates and napkins, and a fire to add your own barbeque fare. Bring a dish to pass.

It is free and everyone of all ages is welcome.

(The next newsletter and announcement will be online, only)

From the BNA Board:

At the April Board meeting Laura Viau submitted her resignation as President of the BNA. The Board wishes to express our appreciation to Laura for her service to the BNA. During her term Laura accomplished many projects that help to contribute to an improved quality of life for all of the Browncroft neighborhood.

The interim president will be Linda Siple, 76 Ramsey Park who is the current vice president. Linda can be contacted at 28-6744 or lasnss@rit.edu.

At the May 24 meeting a new president will be elected.

BNA June/July Crier Will Go Digital

Next month's issue of the Crier will be distributed via BNA Announce, the online notification email service of BNA and posted on the website. The usual door-to-door distribution of a paper copy of the newsletter will be suspended on a trial basis to save printing costs, paper and to give our Crier deliverers a summer break.

NOTE: This means that residents of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association streets must be BNA Announce subscribers in order to receive notification that the June/July newsletter is out. Visit our website, <http://browncroftna.org> to look for the Crier, or sign-up for BNA Announce and access a wealth of Browncroft information, history and newsletter archives. Your email address and identity is not shared with anyone other than the BNA webmaster.

Another great advantage of a digital Crier is color pictures.

If you don't have computer access, call the BNA voice mail, 234-0160, and request a paper copy or pick one up at the library.

NEW STREET SIGNS PROJECT

The BNA wishes to announce a new project. We are working on having the street signs replaced with signs that display the BNA logo – “the pine trees”. This is a timely project because NY State has recently enacted new regulations for all street signage.

The new street signs will be in compliance with the NY code regarding color and size. The project is still in its beginning stages. The BNA is working with the City on an appropriate design that meets the code, and is looking for



Preliminary mock up of proposed signs

a possible source of funding.

If you would like to help this project in any way please contact the BNA voice mail or web site (see first page of Crier).

by Linda Siple

POINT OF VIEW--

Our Beautiful Trees

As one listens to the author, Eric Rutkow, talk about his new book “American Canopy: Trees, Forests and the Making of a Nation” on the Diane Rehm show one learns that “tree hugging” has not been the preoccupation of liberals alone throughout history. The author points to an interesting correlation between America's greatest leaders – George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt, and Franklin D. Roosevelt -- also being some of American's greatest tree lovers.

Trees have been, and still are, vitally important to the health, history and economy of America. But let us focus in on smaller geographic subdivisions like cities



looking north on Newcastle from Dorchester

and neighborhoods, and we can see the same dynamics at work. Trees are important to health in that they clean and filter air, provide shade that keeps us cool and protected from skin cancers caused by harmful ultraviolet light, and generally please our inner esthetic senses with their beauty. Trees are historic, especially the ancient specimens that grace our public parks, squares and tree lawns, as well as our own Browncroft designated historic landscape. Trees are a well documented economic boost to the property values in a neighborhood..

It is spring in Browncroft and we are reminded of the beauty of our trees – both ornamental and shade -- bursting out and embrass-



looking north across Browncroft to Rose Garden

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Ode to our sidewalks ...

An important neighborhood asset

by Linda Siple

The level of walking that takes place in a neighborhood is considered an indicator of livability – a factor that has a profound impact on quality of life. In neighborhoods where people can regularly be seen out walking, there is a palpable sense that these are safe and friendly places to live. The Browncroft Neighborhood is known for its high quality of life, in part, because it is a pedestrian friendly neighborhood. The sidewalk in front of our homes is a valuable asset that we need to cherish and carefully maintain in order to preserve our “walk-able community”. Here are some tips for keeping our sidewalks accessible, inviting, and safe.

- Trim back bushes and tree limbs that may hang over the sidewalk. Try to aim for a 6’4” head clearance. When rain soaked or heavy with snow they may drop a foot or more.
- Make sure to post signs about the use of lawn chemicals and sweep off the chemical beads from the sidewalk. They attach to the bottom of shoes and get taken into the house. They also attach to the feet of pets.
- Keep the lawn edged on both side of the sidewalk to keep it looking neat and open. Remove grass and weeds from between the sections of sidewalk to reduce pitting and cracks.
- Sweep off grass clippings and accumulated dirt. They are unsightly and when wet become dangerously slippery.
- If you have a Sweetgum, Catalpa or other trees that drop sharp/prickly seed pods, regularly rake them off the sidewalk.
- Report cracked/uneven sidewalks to the City*. They are hazardous as they may trip pedestrians or the dirt accumulation is slippery.
- The City Code states that *property owners* have a legal obligation to clear sidewalks adjacent to their properties of obstructions including snow, ice, and snowplow residue.
- Report street lights that do not work*.
- If you have wisteria planted near the light poles keep it trimmed so it doesn’t obscure the light.
- Never allow anyone to park a car across the sidewalk at the end of your driveway. This is a parking violation and should be

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Flowering Tree Donated To Browncroft Rose Garden

Once again, Jim Kelly of Dorchester Road, has donated a tree, which he grew in his own nursery, to the Browncroft Rose Garden, the city park located at the intersection of Browncroft Boulevard and Merchants Road. The paulownia tree was planted by Jim in April at the western center of the park. This fast growing tree, also known as the empress tree,

produces light pink foxglove-like flowers in spring and can reach 50 feet in height.

Jim planted a handsome katsura tree in the park on the Merchants Road side approximately twenty years ago, and it has grown to twenty feet.

Thank you, Jim.

IN MEMORIAM



Huguette Neracker

Our Browncroft community lost a passionate enthusiast and crusader for all things Browncroft. Huguette Neracker, of Yarmouth Road, died April 28th, after a long battle with lung cancer.

Huguette’s involvement with the neighborhood association started as a street representative and progressed to a beautification advocate and also as a proponent and worker on the historic designation committee for the National Register of Historic Places. Her energy, and that of her husband Marwode, who survives her, is legendary on their street, extending to dragging refuse home between garbage days and sweeping the gutters of the street.

Huguette was also known for her work with Rochester’s Sister City Program, and hosted at her Yarmouth Road home visitors, including two mayors, from Rennes, France.

Trees

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ing us with protection and a sense of place as we walk our streets. So let us take stock of the status of our neighborhood canopy and insure that we perpetuate all that it has been, and all that it is, into the future. by Cassy Petsos

Sidewalks

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- reported*. Neither should cars be parked on grass.
- Don't allow your dog to charge/bark at other dogs or passersby. Invisible fences and extending leashes encourage aggressive behavior when the owner does not intervene. Place the dog in the back yard, or when walking, use a 6ft lead. Firmly and quickly tell your dog "NO".
 - Make sure children on bikes learn a courteous way to communicate their presence when coming up behind a pedestrian.
 - Encourage your children to create chalk art and games on the sidewalks – There is no better fountain of youth than an impromptu game of hopscotch!
 - Leave on your porch light – the added light helps with crime prevention and sidewalk visibility.

*Use 311 to report non-emergencies to the City.

Beautification Committee Needs You

This important standing committee needs a chairperson to organize work parties to maintain and upgrade the Browncroft Rose Garden and other public areas of the neighborhood.

Some horticultural knowledge, especially of roses, is recommended.

Regular beautification volunteers are also wanted.

Contact BNA via <http://browncroftna.org> or Linda Siple at 288-6744.

COUNTY'S SECOND DOG PARK TO OPEN IN ELLISON PARK

The Monroe County Parks Department is finishing up construction of its eastside dog park in Ellison Park, off Blossom Road. The anticipated opening is before Memorial Day. The area is located at the ox bowl of Irondequoit Creek and is adjacent to the large former park-n-ride lot. Dogs are allowed off leash in the enclosed area designated for this purpose. According to Larry Staub, Director of Monroe County Parks, "We have learned a lot from our Greece Canal Park dog park". This park will be approximately

three acres and contain a separate area for small dogs. The large dog area has, in addition to a gravel play area, a manmade pond for water loving dogs in the center of the natural area, and a path that follows along the creek bank for a stroll. There's sure to be a good many Browncroft dogs there.

Dog owners must register their dogs and pay a \$24.00 fee (or \$25 if paying by credit card) to use the park. For more details check out <http://www.monroecounty.gov/parks-DogParks.php>
by Cassy Petsos

WINTON LIBRARY CORNER



The Library will be closed on Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day.

UPCOMING ADULT EVENTS:

Book Club

Monday, May 7th, 7-8:30 pm & Monday, May 11th, 12:15 – 1:15pm. Choose either session. Adult selection is Room, by Emma Donoghue. Copies are available at the circulation desk.

Foreign & Independent Film Series

Monday, May 21st, 6:30 pm, "On a Clear Day". Produced 2005, Rated PG-13, 98 minutes. Popcorn will be provided.

Thursday, May 10, 1:30 -2:30 pm.

Rainbow Sage on the Road – Mature adults are invited to meet the members of this group of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley, and to discuss the events they present.

UPCOMING CHILDRENS' EVENTS:

Story time

Tuesday, May 1 & 8 @ 10:15. Tuesday Twos for children 24-36 mos. with parent/caregiver.

Tuesday, May 1 & 8 @ 11:15. Preschool for children 3-5 years.

Wednesday, May 2 & 9 @ 6:30 pm. For all ages.

Thursday, May 3 & 10 @ 10:00 am. Lapsit for babies 6 – 24 mos. with parent/caregiver.

Saturday, May 12, 10:30am - 12:00pm. Mother's Day Crafts with Mrs. McManus. For ages 3-10.

Tuesday, May 15, 10:30 – 11:00 am. Toddler Dance Party with Miss Jean. For ages 18 months up.

Wednesday, May 16, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Construction Club with Mrs. McManus. For ages 4+.

For more information about any of the events listed here, please call the library @ 428-8204 during business hours: Mon., Wed., 2-9pm, Tues., Fri., 10am-6pm, Thurs., 1-7pm, Sat., 10am-2pm.

Thank you to those patrons who participated in the Barnes & Noble Bookfair to benefit Winton Branch Library on May 5th.