



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

Fall 2019

BNA Executive Committee

Officers:

President
Peter Easterly
Vice-President
Skip Pleninger
Secretary
John Campolieto
Treasurer
Bob Scheidt

District Reps

Elm
James Nicholson
Corwin
Holly Petsos
Croydon
David D. Kaiser

BNA Contact:

via browncroftna.org

Be On Your Way With

BNA: 733-4386

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Another Browncroft Clam Bake???

YES!!!!

We are pleased to announce that the
Second Annual Browncroft Clam Bake
will be held on Windemere Road,

**Saturday, September 28th
From 3:00 pm-7:00 pm**

Tickets will only be sold in advance of the event.

Ticket prices are \$15 for BNA members and \$20 for
resident non-members...Pay your BNA dues to get the
discount!!

Your admission ticket entitles you to one dozen clams, hot
dogs, hamburgers, side dishes, soft drinks, and desserts.
Additional clams will be sold for \$5 per dozen. Children
12 and under are free.

Tickets will be available for purchase on
Tuesday, August 27th and Thursday September 12th at
220 Dorchester Road from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Tickets
sales may also be arranged by
calling or emailing Peter Easterly
(585-748-6562 or pjeasterly@gmail.com).

**Deadline for all ticket sales is Wednesday,
September 18th.**

To ensure a successful event, volunteers are needed to help
set up, cook, clean, and tear down. It's a great chance to
work alongside and have fun with your neighbors! Sign up
to help when you purchase your tickets.

From the President.....

Peter Easterly

Hi everyone! I'm Peter Easterly, president of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association. My wife Tracey and I have lived in the neighborhood for nearly eight of the thirty years we have been city residents.

Browncroft had always been our destination neighborhood, so we're here to stay! Now, as I enjoy the good fortune of being BNA president, it is my sincere hope to help maintain the neighborhood's unique quality and character that drew me here. I feel very fortunate to have met and become friends with so many wonderful neighbors of all ages. It is these relationships that make me feel even more duty bound to help protect the interests of our neighborhood.

Also, and equally important in my opinion, I hope to do what my predecessor Jim Seitz advised- "put the 'neighbor' back in neighborhood." I would like to focus my efforts on activities designed to foster a sense of community- whether that means coming together to break bread and raise a glass at events such as the Clam Bake and the Winter Gathering, or pitching in to weed the Rose Garden or lending a hand during a neighborhood spring clean-up. While I believe that this is the 'real work' of the BNA, I welcome and encourage all input especially differing points of view. I look forward to hearing what is most important to you and the constructive conversations that are bound to arise.

Best,
Peter

NEW BNA OFFICERS FOR 2019-2020



John Campoleito, Bob Scheidt, Skip Pleninger, Peter Easterly

Peter Easterly – President.

Peter has lived with his wife Tracey and dog Madylyn on Windemere Rd for the past 7 years. Peter is a residential real estate agent with RE/MAX Realty Group and has served on the City of Rochester's Board of Assessment Review since 2002. He enjoys playing golf and a good wine.

Skip Pleninger – Vice President. Skip has been in the insurance business for 32 years and is Vice President of Paris-Kirwan Associates, Inc. He focuses primarily on risk financing vehicles to help physicians control their risk and cut their expenses. His experience in regulatory compliance and medical malpractice led him to be New York's leading expert when it comes to protecting physicians from the unexpected. Skip & his wife Sharon have lived at 148 Newcastle Rd. for 18 years where they raised their 2 children, Spencer and Maya. He previously served as President of the Park Meigs Neighborhood Association and was on the Planning and Zoning Commission for the City of Rochester.

Bob Scheidt – Treasurer.

A 12-year resident of Browncroft together with his wife Judene. Rochester roots extend back to 1860 when his great grandfather emigrated from Germany to found Scheidt's Bakery on Maple Street. Bob is currently President of Quality Vision Services, Inc. a local company involved in high-tech optical gaging serving the global metrology (measurement) industry. Bob also serves as President of Irondequoit Rotary and Vice President of the Irondequoit Rotary Foundation.

John Campolieto—Secretary.

John and his wife Sheila, their son Dante and Golden Retriever Sage have lived at the corner of Corwin Road and Newcastle Road since the summer of 2012. John has worked as a litigation attorney for the City of Rochester for over twenty years and has volunteered his time with the Webster Ice Arena, Verona Street Animal Society and Seton Catholic School. He enjoys live music, trying new restaurants and taking his son to local sporting events.

BNA MEMBERS AWED BY TOUR OF KRAL GARDEN

An urban oasis is just blocks north of Browncroft. On July 16 several Browncroft members toured this private garden designed by Jerry Kral.

The weather was perfect, having cooled off by 4 p.m.

Passersby have been entranced by the lovely rose garden and unusual evergreens in the front yard of 900 N. Winton Rd. The 1917 house with the original red tile roof boasts a garden of almost an acre, with 1,000 different species and cultivars, and, 360 different conifers as well as 700 different deciduous trees, shrubs and perennials.

More than 50 garden “rooms” enticed visitors to admire the unusual plants, trees, fountains, fish pond, bonsai and unusual sculptures along the 1/2-mile of trails.

Many benches, gliders and seats beckoned. It was easy to get lost. Visitors admired Mr. Kral’s favorite tree, a Japanese snowbell with leaves that were almost all white.

The Krals purchased the home



in 1993; he has bought tons of fieldstone and blue stone for walkways and walls, faithfully watered and weeded, and opened it up for organized tours.

The garden is behind the houses on Winton, Glen Parkway, Coleridge, and Marsden.

To see photos of the site, google “The Jerry & Karen Kral Garden.”

To be notified of the next intrepid gardening expedition, e-mail Jim Nicholson at jrn2800@frontier.com or Sharon Bloemendaal at jbloem@rochester.rr.com.

BNA Announce will send this information to BNA members who request it.

BNA BANKING AND MEMBERSHIP DUES DELAYED

The BNA board has voted to change to a local bank, ESL, who has offered better terms and better interest rates. Treasurer, Bob Scheidt, has worked diligently to sort out tax identification number and other technicalities, in order to accomplish this.

Due to these circumstances, the dues deadline for 2019 has been extended through 10/1/2019. Dues are \$10 per household. Checks can be made out to The Browncroft Neighborhood Association and mailed to: BNA Membership, PO Box 10127, Rochester, NY 14610.

You may also pay your 2019 dues, if you have not already done so, when you purchase your tickets for the Clam Bake at the upcoming dates for ticket sales.

The traditional fall call for membership dues for 2020 will be rescheduled to a spring date to coincide with the June to June fiscal year in the by-laws. “

Peter Easterly

FROM THIS TO THIS ...



On June 27th eleven volunteer employees from Heartland School Solutions attacked the weeds and mulched the beds for almost three hours in the Browncroft Rose Garden. Pictures speak 1000 words.

The volunteers were sent our way by Flower City AmeriCorp through the city’s South East Neighborhood Service Center. Thank you Gino, Rachel, Dallas, Jimmy, Crystal, Adam, Nicole, Jason, Mathew, Tyler, Robin and Luis.

Now we need more BNA neighbors to step forward to keep the weeds down, and the park looking good all summer. Contact Cassy Petsos at 288-0955 and leave a message.

Cassy Petsos

CITY UNVEILS ITS DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - BNA COMMENTS

The City of Rochester has released Vision 2034, its comprehensive planning document covering the next 15 years. It will replace Mayor William Johnson's Rochester Renaissance 2010 Plan.

What is a comprehensive plan?

The laws of the State of New York encourage municipalities to, with community input, develop a comprehensive plan to help establish a means to promote healthy communities, fiscal responsibility and thoughtful land regulations.

When City Council or a town board approves the plan, it becomes a legal document that provides a foundation upon which to develop policies and guidelines based on data on all aspects of a municipality -- from demographics to land uses, parks and open spaces, building types, housing statistics, transportation, education, finances and services -- in order to inform future land use decision making by various boards, such as Zoning, Planning Commission, and Preservation Board; and to provide a framework for public and private investment.

Vision 2034 is a 500 page document with various appendixes of supporting plans, such as the "2018 Citywide Housing Market Study" and the "2019 Commercial Corridor Study".

In it there is a breakdown of proposed zoning code changes that affect the current zoning district designations. Browncroft is in an R-1 (single family residential) zone. The Vision 2034 plan would call such districts "Low Density Residential" and remove some of the regulations associated with it up

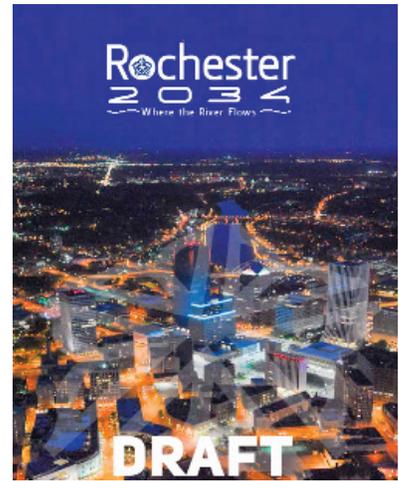
to this point.

Neighborhoods across the city were given a deadline of August 16th to comment on the draft Vision 2034 plan. The following is BNA's letter of comment relative to the plan's proposed Low Density Residential regulations:

"After careful review of issues to be addressed in the city of Rochester's Plan 2034, the Browncroft Neighborhood Association respectfully requests consideration of the following points:

1. Neighborhoods such as Browncroft should be considered as successful examples of quality urban living, and as desirable alternatives which attract people who would otherwise choose to live in the suburbs. Browncroft is not only aesthetically pleasing, it is walkable (not automobile dependent!), close to cultural resources, services, retail and public transportation. Comprised of over 670 residences, Browncroft is a large and flourishing portion of the city. Rather than altering successful and high-demand neighborhoods through zoning and planning changes, we believe that encouraging investment in, and redevelopment of, areas bordering high-demand neighborhoods would productively address Plan 2034's goals.

2. Unlike many urban areas, there is not a housing shortage within the City of Rochester. A great deal of housing has fallen into disrepair and/or abandonment as a result of predatory lending practices or neglectful absentee landlords. These issues can and should be addressed administra-



(On line at CityofRochester.gov)

tively or through appropriate legislation rather than through zoning changes in neighborhoods such as Browncroft.

3. We are particularly concerned about proposed changes to the City's Zoning code, as applicable to areas such as our neighborhood, currently zoned as R-1. While we certainly would support changes such as making the definition of "family" or "related" more inclusive, and clarifying that activities such as maintaining an in-home office were permitted uses, we strongly believe that the following features of the current zoning law should be maintained:

- Whether called R-1 or "Low Density Residential", zoning should specify "single family residential" as the only permitted use. We believe that adding a second or subordinate residence to an existing single family lot would overcrowd and degrade neighborhoods, as well as decreasing green space and increasing runoff.

- Commercial uses, should be specifically described or prohibited in such zones.

- Existing legal non-con-

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NEW BOOKS FOR NEW STUDENTS AT #46 SCHOOL

For the past 3 years the Browncroft Neighborhood has donated new books for all the kindergarten students attending #46 School. The books are gift wrapped and include a card indicating that they are a welcome gift from our neighborhood. The children love receiving these new books! We are continuing this project and will be collecting new paperback and/or hardcover books, appropriate for early readers, or financial contributions to purchase books beginning July 1st. Donations can be dropped off at 175 Dorchester Rd. with a note indicating that they are for #46 School students or you can call Ann Kanthor at 482-0704 for pick-up. If there are additional funds, school supplies will be purchased for the school.



Thank you for your continuing support!

Ann Kanthor
Hakanthor1@outlook.com

Volunteer Opportunity

In conjunction with our New Books For New Students we are exploring the opportunity of having guest readers for the kindergarten classes at #46 School. If you would like more information on this project, please contact Ann Kanthor at hakanthor1@outlook.com. A Partnership Program Application has to be completed for the City School District and a schedule will be created depending on your availability. Thank you.

Ann Kanthor

Vision 2034 Plan

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forming uses should be permitted to continue, but future conversions should be prohibited.

4. Browncroft was developed, and its integrity maintained for over a century, through restrictive covenants that pre-dated modern zoning. These covenants are still in effect, and their validity has been upheld by the New York Court of Appeals. We urge that their language regulating use be incorporated into any future R-1 or 'Low Density Residential' code, including Browncroft."

What's next? Regardless of the comments received, the City is unlikely to change anything in this "draft" document. It will be submitted to the Planning Commission, which will either recommend that it be approved by City Council, or deny recommendation. Either way, it goes to City Council for a vote.

Holly Petsos
Zoning Chairperson

BNA FLOWER POWER



2019 is the 50 year anniversary of Woodstock, the music festival that inspired the flower child peace and love generation.

On a beautiful April 27th day, BNAs "flower children" were at work in the Browncroft Rose Garden for Spring Clean-up, that annual neighborhood ritual to prepare the park for the summer season. Lots of hard work weeding and pruning the rose beds was done by neighborhood volun-

teers: Mary Ann Evans and Linda Mauck (Croydon Road), Kathleen Watts (Merchants Road), Linda Seitz (Dorchester Road), Kay Rust (Elmcroft Rd), Kathy Meeh (Berwick Road), Kathy Grady (Windemere Road) and Cassy Petsos (Browncroft Boulevard).

What a terrific crew!

Thank you for your dedication to the neighborhood and the city parks.

Long Time BNA Board Member Has Passed Away

Joe Nunn, formerly of Windemere Road, who served as street representative of that street, past away on May 12, 2019.

Joe, who had lived on Windemere since the late fifties, knew everyone on his street. He was a master at collecting dues there, and often reached over a 90% membership participation.

He is survived by his wife, Lucy.

We miss you, Joe!

BRIGHTON-BROWNCROFT LIGHTING PROJECT IS COMPLETE !

Brighton residents of the Browncroft neighborhood were pleased when the City of Rochester completed street lighting improvements in 2014. As seen in the photo below, when construction completed, the street lights ended at the border between the City of Rochester and the Town of Brighton.



Windemere looking West – Fall of 2014

Soon after, a number of Brighton residents got together and began work with the Town to have additional street lights of the same design extend to Brighton. Ten neighbors on Windemere & Corwin agreed to work together

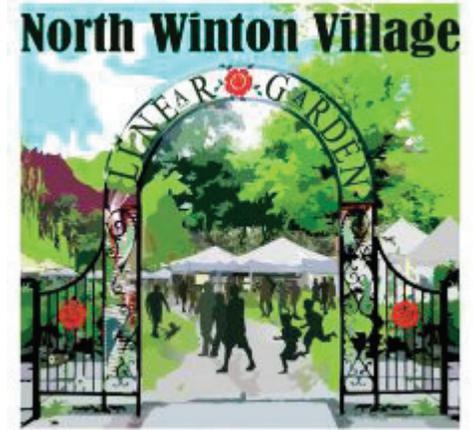
with the Town to fund the project through the creation of a new “tax district”. The project continued through a series of local and state approvals and the project of approximately \$50,000 was completed under budget this past July.

The neighbors and the BNA would like to thank and recognize Brighton Town Engineer Evert Garcia for his support and leadership throughout this project. His work included long hours and weekends including a special Sunday afternoon information session for the neighbors. Thank you, Evert.

Bob Scheidt
Windemere Resident &
BNA Treasurer



Lighting Installation – July 2019



Festival of the Arts

NWV 2019

**Festival of the Arts
Saturday, September 14**

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Music, Food, Art-
work, Crafts,
Neighbors together at
the Linear Garden**

**(between E. Main St. and
Mayfield St.)**



Fourth of July Childrens' Parade About to Begin



TREES, ANYONE?

Residents interested in participating in a group to restore the historic Browncroft tree canopy and ornamental landscaping please contact -

Cassy Petsos by email,
chkpetsos@frontiernet.net

