

# Browncroft Crier

The Official Newsletter of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association

Since 1973

P.O. BOX 10127 - ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14610

MAY 1988

May 18TH



## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BNA's 15th ANNUAL MEETING**

The BNA Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers will be held on

**Wednesday, May 18th,**

at Emmanuel Ev. Covenant Church (Fairhaven and Browncroft) at 7:30 pm.

The topic is "**A Centennial of Parks -- a Growing Legacy**". City Historian, Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck will introduce and give a brief history of the City and County parks. Majorie Wickes, a BNA resident, will show slides of parks, focusing on the parks designed by Olmstead.

Also that evening, the Browncroft Neighborhood Association will be holding its annual **Election of Officers** for the 1988-89 year. A brief review of the past year and an outlook for what's ahead will be given by our present President Walt May. All Members of BNA in attendance are eligible to vote.

Refreshments will again be served by our Hospitality Committee before and after the meeting.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- May 18: BNA Annual Meeting "A Centennial of Parks", at Emmanuel Covenant Church, 7:30 pm.  
June 4: Annual Bed Planting, at the Rose Garden

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Dear Neighbors,

By the time you receive this newsletter, weather permitting, the Rose Garden Spring Cleanup will have taken place. While the City cuts the grass it is our responsibility to make the bulb planting and care for the rose bushes. We owe many thanks to Cassy and Holly Petsos who have headed this activity for so many years as well as the neighbors who do their share throughout the summer on a schedule to which they have committed themselves.

In connection with the above mention of many years of service, most of our officers and committee chairpersons have served for a number of years. We have been unsuccessful in attempts to recruit a secretary which involves principally taking minutes of the 6 or 7 Board and Executive Committee meetings each year. We also need a Hospitality Chairperson and Committee to organize simple refreshments at our 4 General Meetings per year and our Annual Holiday Buffet. None of these activities alone is very demanding or time consuming but doubling up on duties does present a problem.

We hope that interested persons, particularly relatively new neighbors, will volunteer for the above positions or accept tasks when requested. It is in our best interest to have a viable active association. This can be accomplished only with the participation of many rather than a few.

Hope to see you at our May 18th meeting.

## MAY 18th: BNA ELECTIONS

### - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The BNA is seeking nominations for its officers, especially Secretary, for the coming year. The only qualifications are BNA Membership and a willingness to serve. Elected officers are President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Current office holders are listed below.

If you wish to make a nomination or volunteer for an office please call one of the officers and confirm your nomination at the May 18th Meeting.

## TRASH PICK-UPS

Now that the City has conducted the annual Spring Cleanup special pick up, this is a reminder to wait until the evening before your street's weekly pick up to place bags of lawn clippings and other bulky items at the curb. This will help preserve the attractive appearance of our neighborhood.

## SCHOOL #46

### -SUMMER REC PROGRAM RETURNS

Linda Reisz, President of School #46 PTA, advises that thanks to the support and action by a quickly formed committee, including the Browncroft Neighborhood Association, the Summer Recreation Program at School #46 playground will be continued this summer. Without prompt action by this committee to petition the City Recreation Department this program would have been lost. The City had planned to divert the funds to activities at Cobbs Hill, much less accessible to children from our neighborhood.

The Summer Recreation Program will run at School #46 from June 27th thru August 19th, Monday thru Friday from 9am - 12 noon and 1pm - 5pm. It will consist of organized sports, games, arts and crafts and other exciting activities for school-aged children. More information on registration and specific programs will be available soon.

### -JUNE PICNIC

The Annual School #46 June Picnic will be on June 2nd from 5:30-8pm. There will be food, games and pony rides for the #46 Neighborhood.

## NEAD'S TOOL LIBRARY CLOSES

NEAD'S Tool Lending Library will be forced to close on May 25th due to lack of insurance. NEAD would appreciate members returning any borrowed tools prior to this date.

NEAD, along with other city tool libraries are researching possible insurance carriers.

### BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 1987-1988

#### OFFICERS:

**PRESIDENT**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT**  
**TREASURER**  
**SECRETARY**

Walter May  
John Wallace  
James Nicholson  
Vacant

215 Corwin Road 482-8167  
292 Newcastle Road 482-5992  
28 Berwick Road 482-1084

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

**BEAUTIFICATION**  
**BUDGET & FINANCE**  
**CRIME PREVENTION**  
**HISTORICAL**  
**HOSPITALITY**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**ZONING**  
**MEMBERSHIP**

Cassy Petsos  
James Nicholson  
Bob Genthner  
Shari Bloemendaal  
Vacant  
Bob Genthner  
John Wallace  
Margaret Richter  
Betty O'Brien

175 Browncroft Blvd. 288-0955  
28 Berwick Road 482-1084  
195 Newcastle Road 482-2441  
82 Quentin Road 288-6359  
195 Newcastle Road 482-2441  
292 Newcastle Road 482-5992  
75 Quentin Road 288-0238  
99 Windemere Road 654-9727

## **STREETLIGHTS**

A meeting between Tri-Neighborhood Streetlight Coalition representatives and the City Engineer took place on March 30th at City Hall. There had been two prior meetings in August 1987 and October 1987 organized to open discussions between the City and neighborhoods to begin the planning and implementation of the reproduction concrete system for our neighborhoods. However, at the October meeting, in which neighbors were expecting to receive some preliminary plans and cost proposals to review, the city requested, instead, that we reconsider the option to retain the existing system. They believed that currently RG&E would be better able to offer reasonable rates because they are not burdened with maintenance of a city-wide system and have spare parts from the dismantled system. This proposal was viewed as a set back, as neighbors have waited patiently for three years for this streetlight project to begin. From discussions with George Stam, City Engineer and Carol Manes, Streetlight Coordinator, it is clear to the neighborhood reps that the current city staff is uncomfortable with the commitment which they inherited from City Council, Douglas Zefting, former City Engineer who died in the 10K race last year, and former City Manager Peter Korn who was replaced by the strong mayor referendum.

The purpose of the March 30th meeting was to listen to the neighborhoods' concerns regarding this proposal before opening discussions with RG&E for purposes of requesting a cost estimate. The neighborhoods' many concerns included: 1. The existing system is in poor repair due to RG&E's benign neglect, with the city's consent, since 1983 when it was decided to replace residential streetlighting. 2. Replacement of inconsistent fixtures must be guaranteed, such as steel commercial davit poles. 3. Opting to retain the old system still carries with it the disadvantages enumerated to the neighborhoods by the city when instituting the city-owned residential streetlight program. Specifically, there is no control over RG&E rental / maintenance charges. 4. There are streets in the City which have retained the existing RG&E owned fixtures / circuits (unique fixtures) without being assessed a special tax.

The Tri-Neighborhood Streetlight Coalition will wait for word from the City regarding the success of their discussions with RG&E in negotiating a way of retaining the existing system which is an answer to the concerns listed above. However, we reserve the right to remain with the option residents chose by petition in December 1984; and expect the City to continue to draft a proposal to submit for the neighborhoods to compare.

If you would like to learn more or, as a new resident, need background information about this issue, contact Cassy Petsos at 288-0955.

## **BEAUTIFICATION**

Spring Clean-up in the Browncroft Rose Garden was rained out on April 23rd and it is hoped that by publication time of this newsletter it would have taken place on April 30th. The next important scheduled work party will be annual bed planting June 4th. As always volunteers are very needed and greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are also needed to plant annuals at Elm / Winton / Merchants triangle. This attractive little green space, which buffers the residential district from the commercial district, has received care and attention from several residents from the area, including Shari Bloemendaal and Margaret Richter who have planted annuals in past years purchased by the BNA in coordination with varieties planted in the Browncroft Rose Garden. This is an opportunity for Elmcroft area residents to participate in maintaining this small yet strategic neighborhood park. All residents should keep a look out for the spring show in this park when pink cherry trees, tulips and hyacinths blossom.

## **HILLAND B. KNAPP TO BE HONORED**

A group of city employees, spear headed by Tim O'Connell are honoring their friend and colleague (and our neighbor) Hilland Knapp who retired this past February as Director of the Bureau of Parks. On Arbor Day, they will plant trees in the Browncroft Rose Garden as a retirement gift to Mr. Knapp. The BNA would like to extend its thanks and best wishes to Mr. Knapp who has been a highly appreciated City Forester and Director of Parks always sensitive to this neighbor's concern and love for its trees.

--- Cassy Petsos

## **LIBRARY PROGRAM**

Bernice Plummer will discuss "The Much Maligned Octopus and its Cousin the Paper Nautilus" at the Winton Branch Library, May 5th at 1pm sponsored by The Shell Collectors Club.

A Travelog on Hawaii will be held May 3 at 10:30am at the Winton Branch Library.

## **NEAD / PAC-TAC** (Goodman -Highland) **FOURTH ANNUAL BOWL - A - THON**

Bowlers (police, NEAD Staff, residents, PAC-TACers, and YOU) come together on Saturday, June 4th at 11:00 at LADD's (873 Merchants Road) for a few hours of bowling and fun. Prior to the event, bowlers obtain PLEDGES of a penny or two a pin bowled or a flat donation from friends, neighbors and co-workers. After the event, bowlers collect their PLEDGES and return the money to the NEAD Office to support the activities of NEAD and the PAC-TAC groups of the Goodman and Highland Police Sections.

The proceeds from the event are equally divided between NEAD and the two PAC-TAC Groups from Goodman and Highland Police Sections. Last year PLEDGES supported: General NEAD activities, Thanksgiving Food Baskets for needy area residents, volunteer recognition, and mailing to PAC-TAC volunteers to keep the communication chain going.

PAC-TAC is alive and well in BNA. Patrols are out most tuesdays thru Fridays from 7 - 10 pm. Presently the area patrolled is south of Browncroft. PAC-TAC stands for Police- And- Citizens- Together- Against- Crime. PAC-TAC volunteers are trained by the RPD to patrol their neighborhood and to report any suspicious activity to the patrol officers by utilizing a police radio. PAC-TAC volunteers patrol in pairs and are non-confrontational. They act as the eyes and ears for the Police. They are your friends and neighbors who give their time to make our neighborhoods a safer place to live and work. They promote neighborhood cohesiveness and assist in neighborhood activities. For more information contact Officer John Heaney, Highland Section 428-7262 or Mary Condon, NEAD 482-7320.

## **ELLISON PARK**

A public hearing was held March 31 to announce the implementation of near term improvements to be commenced in the 1988 season in Ellison Park. Cassy Petsos from BNA served as a member on the Master Plan Subcommittee representing NEAD. There will be four bridges replaced in 1988. Also discussed were improvements to take place in 1990, many of which were plans that have been altered from those drawn up in The Ellison Master Plan of 1986, regarding the proposed placement of 3 new parking lots and changes to the Parks roads south of Blossom Road. These changes were well received by Cassy, as they reflected a greater sensitivity to the esthetics of the Park and recommendations of the subcommittee in that they incorporated extensive landscaping as well as a concern for ensuring that the creek side trails provide an enhanced experience for hikers and picnickers. The firm of Environmental Design and Research, P.C. and LaBella Associates, P.C. are responsible for this upgrading of the draft Master Plan developed by Kotz and Schneider and the Monroe County Parks Department.

## **WE GET NO RESPECT!**

Have you received in your GRC Bill a flyer describing the "GRC Channel 33 Rochester Real Estate Network"?

Have you noticed the mock up of a TV screen to demonstrate the typical information that is provided?

It shows a beautiful winter scene of a home labeled **N-W GREECE**, by XYZ Reality, 3 bdm./2 Bath, 2400 sq ft. Formal Living / Dining Rm., screened Patio?

There is one problem - the house is actually located in the **CITY** - in **BROWNCROFT** - on **Croydon Road**!

I do hope they do better with the real thing!

--- The Editor.

## **BROWNCROFT CRIER WRAP UP**

Suggestions on articles or items of interest can be submitted to Bob Genthner at 195 Newcastle Road or to EDITOR BROWNCROFT CRIER, P.O. Box 10127, Rochester, New York 14610. The next BROWNCROFT CRIER dead line is expected to be AUG 17th.