

Browncroft Crier

The Official Newsletter of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association

Since 1973

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

MARCH 1989

MARCH 14th

HOW TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL GARAGE SALE

Do you know the best price for that old glass bottle, or that jig saw puzzle, or even that lamp from the den? In preparation for BNA's May 6th and 7th bi-annual Neighborhood Garage Sale, our March 14th BNA General Meeting will be devoted to answering many of your questions. Topics will include how to organize and conduct a garage sale for the most fun and profit. Speakers will be present to discuss appraising your antiques, collectibles, and household items and how best to display your sale items. Over 50 reference appraisal books, provided by the "New York - Pennsylvania Collector", will be available at the meeting for your use that night.

So remember the date:

BNA General Membership Meeting

March 14th

7:30 pm

Emmanuel Covenant Church

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 13: BNA Food Co-op Order Meeting 7:00 pm at
Emmanuel Covenant Church

Mar 14: BNA General Meeting (see above)

Apr 3: BNA Board of Directors Meeting 7:30pm

May 6, 7 BNA Garage Sale Weekend

May 16: BNA Annual Meeting and Elections

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbors,

While the current onslaught of Winter weather makes us think of snow shovels and windshield washer fluid, it is not too early to think Spring and our May Garage Sale. Also, be sure to mark your calendar for the Rose Garden Rededication on June 18th.

On a more somber note, a house in our neighborhood has been broken into twice within four months despite having a security system. Fortunately the system scared off the intruders after entry had been made but this is a reminder that despite recent good showings in the Crime Reports we must ever be on the alert to keep our houses secure and to be mindful of activity in the neighborhood. Need I add a plug for joining PAC-TAC as well!

Walt May

ROSE GARDEN - SPRING CLEAN UP

February is the time we usually start making gardening plans for the coming spring / summer season. However, the Beautification Committee was thinking about summer 1989 in fall 1988. At that time we were busy placing orders for special varieties of hardy old fashioned rose bushes available only through a small number of nurseries. On April 22nd we are scheduled to pick up one such order in Canada from Carl Pollock nurseries. Therefore, spring clean-up / pruning / unmounting in the Browncroft Rose Garden will be Saturday, April 15th with a rain date of April 29th at 9:30 am. Spring clean-up is our biggest job all season and many helpers are needed to make it possible to complete the task on the designated Saturday morning. All volunteers, experienced or inexperienced in pruning roses, are welcome.

---Cassy Petsos, Beautification Committee

STREETLIGHTS

The following is a note returned with a membership application by an Elmcroft Road resident:

"I keep reading in the newsletter about streetlights -- new vs old, etc. I am confused about whether this issue affects Elmcroft Road, even now after we have already been 'given' new (black type) streetlights. Perhaps this could be clarified in a future article on the topic.

P.S. I much preferred the cement poles we had before because of the quality of the light they emitted. It was a sparkling, clean light which actually lit the street and walkways, etc. The new lights give off a yellowish, sickly kind of 'glow' which is not only unattractive, but also ineffectual. Have designers become more concerned with the appearance of the pole itself than the nature of the light it emits? I do not recommend these new ones!

We would like to clear up any confusion regarding the streetlight issue as it pertains to the Elmcroft section of the BNA. All our streets from Browncroft Blvd and north, with the exception of Quentin Road, are not effected by the streetlight negotiations with the City of Rochester. Only those streets which petitioned in 1984

to have the early nineteen hundred concrete poles with incandescent lights in 'harp style' luminaires, instead of the City's generic black fiberglass poles with high pressure sodium light in colonial luminaries, are effected. These include BNA streets south of Browncroft Blvd. and Quentin Road. Residents of those streets petitioned because they felt that the yellowish light was sickly and unacceptable; but also that the concrete poles were (are) charming, durable and architecturally more appropriate for this neighborhood.

There is currently nothing new to report to the neighborhood regarding the status of this issue. At the conclusion of the last meeting with the City Engineer, Councilwoman Louis Giess and representatives of the Tri-Neighborhood Streetlight Coalition, the City was to recalculate their cost proposal based on a number of discrepancies which were brought to their attention. The coalition proposed that the costs for the custom system be amortized for a 30 year period rather than 15 year period, as the probable useful life of such a system is greater than that of the fiberglass system. The coalition also proposed that an assessment on our neighborhoods for a 'unique' system could be deemed as arbitrary and capricious on the part of the City in consideration of the fact that other neighborhoods which have unique streetlights are not being charged a special assessment.

Because this issue has continued for a long period of time, and for the benefit of new neighbors, an informational summary will be prepared and available at future BNA General Membership meetings.

No decisions or actions will be taken regarding the installation of a custom system without an updated written consensus from the affected residents.

---Cassy Petsos, BNA rep to Streetlight Coalition

REDEDICATION OF THE ROSE GARDEN

The BNA Board is formulating plans for a June 18th neighborhood celebration around a rededication ceremony of the Rose Garden Park. The City of Rochester Department of Parks and Recreation has answered our request for a metal marker to be installed in the Rose Garden identifying the park by name and giving a brief dedication history. There will be live music, refreshments and roses in full bloom. Neighbors are invited to bring a picnic basket and Dad to enjoy what we hope will become a neighborhood tradition. More details will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 1988-1989

OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT
VICE-PRESIDENT
TREASURER
SECRETARY

Walter May
John Wallace
James Nicholson
Pam Dalton

215 Corwin Road 482-8167
292 Newcastle Road 482-5992
28 Berwick Road 482-1084
430 Yarmouth Road 288-0731

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

BEAUTIFICATION
BUDGET & FINANCE
CRIME PREVENTION
HISTORICAL
HOSPITALITY

Cassy Petsos
James Nicholson
Bob Genthner
Shari Bloemendaal
Pam Dalton
Katherine Cook
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
430 Yarmouth Road 288-0731
90 Windemere Road 288-1971
195 Newcastle Road 482-2441
292 Newcastle Road 482-5992
75 Quentin Road 288-0238
99 Windemere Road 654-9727

BNA ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

On Tues. May 16th the BNA Annual Membership Meeting will be held at the Emmanuel Covenant Church.

At this time each year, BNA asks that each of you consider yourself or a neighbor for one of our Executive Board positions. Elections are held at the Annual Membership Meeting with nominations being accepted over the next several months. The organization is looking for candidates for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. They are open to all BNA Members.

Nominations can be made by calling Walter May at 482-8167. Walter will be completing his second one year term as President this May.

WALT MAY ON NEWSMAKER WHEC 10

On February 7th Walter May, President of BNA taped the February 11th and 12th WHEC "Newsmaker" program. Ray Lavato was the moderator. Walt appeared on the same show as Mayor Tom Ryan. The topic of discussion that day was the re-development of Downtown Rochester. Walt was on the second segment of the show with the President of '14621', Darryl Porter, another city neighborhood group from the north side around Franklin High. They were asked their feelings toward the city's effort to improve the central district and if they felt impacted as a neighborhood.

CRIME PREVENTION UPDATE

- NOVEMBER 1-30:

CONGRATULATIONS!!! No serious crimes reported this month.

- DECEMBER 1-31:

Browncroft Blvd: 1 Assault. Suspect grabbed victim around the throat. Time: 1:17am. Under investigation. Winton Road North: 1 Grand Larceny. Victim stole a shotgun from store. Time 2:30pm. No suspect information

PAC-TAC AWARD DINNER

The Annual City Wide PAC-TAC Awards Dinner was held at Dandrea's Party House on Feb. 22nd. Those who attended were treated to a wonderful steamship round of beef buffet, and Dick Tobias was the guest speaker. BNA's PAC-TAC members honored for 5 years of service were: Bob Genthner (Newcastle Rd.), Doug Anderson (Dorchester Rd.), and Phil Mentel (Yarmouth Rd.).

A General Meeting for the Highland Section PAC-TAC will be held on March 9th at St. Boniface School on Gregory Street.

BNA FOOD CO-OP

The next meeting for the Browncroft Food Co-op is scheduled for March 13, 1989 at 7:00pm at the Emmanuel Covenant Church. New members are always welcome.

NEAD OPEN HOUSE

NEAD will be having its annual Open House on February 28th from 5 - 8 pm at the NEAD office 1564 East Main Street (next to Effinger's German Sausage Haus). Everyone is welcomed!

The Open House is part of the neighborhood organization's effort to inform the community of its services. The event also gives area residents, representatives from service agencies, religious organizations, and public officials the opportunity to meet members of the NEAD staff and Board of Directors, and learn more about the neighborhood. Anyone interested in learning about volunteer opportunities is urged to attend.

AROUND THE CORNER.....BOB GENTHNER

Let's start with some good news....the BNA Membership Drive has concluded with 525 members....this includes 340 NEAD memberships.

The BNA Holiday Buffet was attended by 65 neighbors....one couple that attended had just moved in from England onto Gramercy Park....sorry the other 625 neighbors missed this one....but, it looks like you'll have another chance at the Rose Garden's Rededication in June....I hear that Dede Ranger of Corwin Road is already working on the music.

Recycle!....recycle!....Browncroft is the number one participant with 43 to 63% participation in the city's newspaper recycling program.

I saw the lights....did you?....Christmas Eve was aglow in Browncroft....next year....will we see more?....and did you notice....there even was some snow!

Did you catch the news in the Beautification Committee's report earlier in the newsletter that a trip will be made to Canada to escort our new rose bushes to their new home....only 60 years ago that same trip would have been made in reverse....right here to Browncroft!....times do change....progress they say.

Speaking of progress....here's one for the record books....two years ago on Newcastle, the city leaf workers got behind on their schedule in moving the leaf piles from the lawns to the street for the back hole to scrape up into the trucks....so being industrious they got the back hole to do double time to help scrape the leaves into the street....have you ever raked your lawn with a back hole?....it doesn't work!....well, the grass did grow back....until....this past fall the leaf workers got a little frustrated raking the piles of leaves into the street....so five of them stopped raking and got the bulldozer to scrape the leaves into the street....while they stood and watched....that didn't work either!....oh, should I mention....this was also on Newcastle Rd....the same house!....maybe next year they'll....

Stay tune....the neighborhood never sleeps.

BNA GARAGE SALE!

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MAY 6 AND 7, 1989!

---BE THERE!!

The May 6 and 7th BNA Neighborhood Wide Garage Sale is almost here! George Cook will once again chair this bi-annual event. Plans are still being finalized by George and his committee and details will be announced in the next newsletter. But until then, start that spring cleaning and save the good stuff for the sale. We look forward to over 100 households again participating throughout the Browncroft area.

BNA HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

The Historical Committee announced at the recent BNA Board Meeting that arrangements have been finalized for the East High students of Mrs. Naramore's college level course, 'AP Social Studies', to conduct an Oral History Project after their semester ends in the spring. The students will be given names of residents on the East side of the city to be interviewed. The sessions will be taped and the students will then write up the interviews for the Historical Committee.

If anyone knows of a long time resident of the area who might be a good candidate for an oral history interview, please contact any member of the committee: Sherri Bloemendaal, Holly Petsos, Cassy Petsos, John O'Brien, Betty O'Brien, or Bob Genthner.

DRUG FORUM HELD

-- SPEAK-OUT AGAINST DRUGS

Neighbors Against Drugs (NAD) held an open forum on February 16th at East High before a panel of 20 public and elected officials. The panel included among others Mayor Tom Ryan, County Executive Tom Frey, School Board President Ben Douglas, and Police Chief Gordon Urlacher.

Over 30 residents voiced their concerns on the increasing drug problems in our city and over 200 others were in the audience.

THE CITY'S DRUG CRIME

HOTLINE 428-6000

When you witness illegal drug activity, help the police say 'No' to drugs by reporting: Suspects' vehicle license number, make and description; and / or Suspects' names, addresses and physical description. For emergencies dial 911.

The police will have all tips about illegal drug activity in the city investigated by narcotics officers. The HOTLINE operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anonymous tips will be accepted.

Become a partner in making Rochester a "Drug-Free Community"!

ZONING

A Croydon Rd tow truck business that was observed to be operating out of a home was brought to the attention of the Zoning Committee by a nearby resident. The question was, "Is this a proper use in an R1 residential zone for a home occupation?"

John Wallace, BNA Zoning Chairman, discussed the concern raised with NEAD's Community Organizer Suzanne McSain, the City's Zoning Department at City Hall, and Joe Sanders, city Zoning Inspector.

The requirements for the business to operate were shown to be a.) a zoning variance is required (but only the City Director's approval is required); b.) No visible signs from a public way (1 sign is allowed however in a window); c.) all vehicles must be garaged at all times (only 1 vehicle allowed).

The business in question does have a proper variance and can operate as a home occupation. However, some errors in the process were found and are being corrected. Further, the tow truck was observed to be in the driveway and visible to the public with the business' name on the truck's door. This violation has been cited by the zoning inspector and the owner will correct this by properly garaging the truck in the future.

SOME HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POLICE, FIRE, MEDICAL	911
JUNK CARS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY	428-6520
SNOW PLOWING/ ICE REMOVAL	428-5990
PLUGGED / DAMAGED SEWERS	458-6522
REFUSE COLLECTION	428-7065
BARKING DOGS / CRUELTY TO ANIMALS	428-7274
ZONING INFORMATION	428-7043
STREET LIGHTING	428-6841
TRAFFIC SIGNS AND LIGHTS	274-7900
RODENT CONTROL	274-6090
POT HOLES	428-5990
CODE ENFORCEMENT	428-6665
DEAD ANIMAL PICK-UP	428-5990
PROPERTY COMPLAINTS	428-6520
MAYOR'S SERVICE OFFICE	428-7065

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 April 22nd.