

Browncroft Crier

The Official Newsletter of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association

Since 1973

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

May 1991

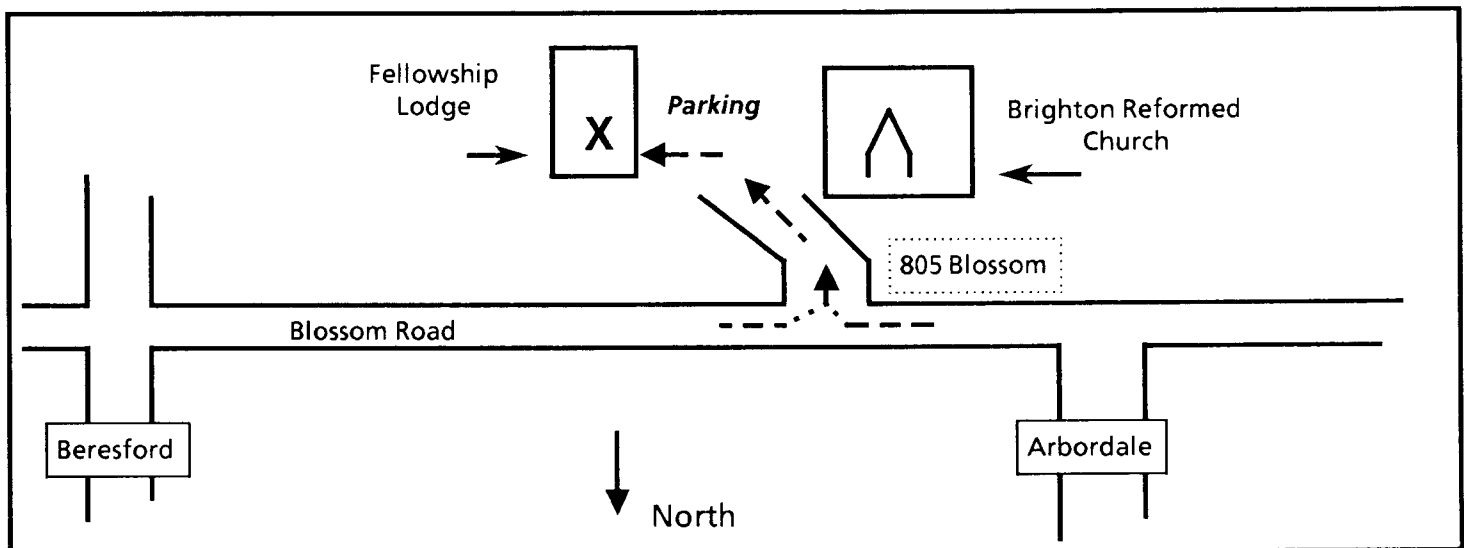
BNA ANNUAL MEETING • ELECTION OF OFFICERS *Restore, Replant, and Redecorate!* May 23rd, 7:15 p.m. AT: Brighton Reformed Church's Fellowship Lodge (see map below)

BNA invites you to our Spring Program designed to get you motivated, to help you tackle home and garden projects.

Seven guest speakers knowledgeable in a variety of topics have been invited to share their experience with us.

The speakers will give a short presentation and then be available for questions at their individual display tables. You are encouraged to stop and talk to these experts about your individual home repair and garden or other projects.

- Peter Belden Trieb, Architectural Restoration Consultant and woodworker, will give a presentation on how to maintain and sensitively restore an older home.
- Peter Kennan, Jr., of Kitchen Sync Productions, will discuss custom kitchen remodeling and cabinetwork.
- Mary Dugan, "Master Gardener" and Browncroft neighbor, will present on behalf of the Cornell-Cooperative Extension. She will answer gardening project questions on lawn care and composting. Fact sheets will be available.
- Marguerite Thomas of "Fabric and Findings", presents "Decorative Window Treatments".
- Ken DeWeaver, Librarian at the Winton Road Library will do an overview of Library programs and will have books on gardening, home repairs, and renovation projects available to lend that evening.
- Susan Bush, Crime Prevention Person at NEAD, and an Officer from the Highland Section will talk on Crime Prevention methods, locks, etc. Residents will have the opportunity to sign up for a home security audit.
- Gary Lang, Housing Specialist at NEAD, will speak on the availability of programs for grants and loans for senior citizens and people on fixed incomes.



LANDMARK HOUSE TOUR COMES TO BROWNCROFT --- June 8th and 9th!

The Landmark Society has chosen the Browncroft Tract for this year's June 8-9th House Tour. This well attended annual affair will mark the first visit to the Browncroft area of this highly visible event. The 12 house tour is now being publicized and tickets are available through the Landmark Society.

This important showcase of our neighborhood needs our full cooperation, as hundreds of visitors are expected. Please help put our best appearance forward and not put debris or trash at the curbs. See the Spring Clean-up article below and the accompanying flier regarding the tour.

BNA BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE WINS AN AWARD

The Federation of Garden Clubs, presented an award for civic improvement to the Browncroft Neighborhood Association on April 11, 1991. This award was made based on the consistent efforts of the Beautification Committee to improve and maintain the Browncroft Rose Garden. The Federation of Garden Clubs has 70 garden clubs as members from a geographic area stretching from Buffalo to Syracuse and Lake Ontario to Corning in the south. The award was accepted by Margaret Richter and Cassy Petsos. Margaret and Cassy were impressed when learning of the great numbers of other groups / garden clubs which give their volunteer time to plant on public properties such as town halls, libraries and parks.

ROSE GARDEN - The Job Got Done

...Spring clean-up in the Rose Garden, that is. Although we were rained-out on April 20th, a small but strong group of eight beautification workers (Debbie Barsel, Joyce DeBlieck, Will Dewart, Chris Ide, Carol Mercurio, Holly and Cassy Petsos, Laura Viau) unmounted, pruned and cultivated on a sunny April 27th morning. The City will be fertilizing the beds, and afterwards the neighbors will continue to weed and edge the beds throughout the summer.

The annual bed planting has been scheduled for May 18th, 9:30 am, rain date is June 1st. This is another "big job" for our volunteers, and again, we ask for neighbors to help out. The City will provide the annuals and peat moss. This year we are going to try dwarf dahlias, ageratum and alyssum. Volunteers must bring their own trowels and weeders.

New rose bushes donated by friends and neighbors will also be planted.

PARKS DEPARTMENT / BNA BEAUTIFICATION MEETING

Beautification Committee Members, Debbie Barsel, Chris Ide, Margaret Richter, Holly Petsos, and Cassy Petsos, met with James Farr, City Parks Operations Manager, and Terry McIntee, Horticultural Technician, to discuss the development of a perennial border in the Browncroft Rose Garden and to touch base on our respective roles in maintaining the park.

A great deal was discussed at this meeting and the committee feels confident that this season we will experience some improvement in the maintenance in the park.

ROSE GARDEN MEMORIALS AND DONATIONS

A donation has been made by Mr. and Mrs. John Peeso towards beautification efforts in the Rose Garden. Donations for rose bushes have been made by John and Betty O'Brien and by Ervina and Bruce Malin in memory of Alexander Petsos.

NEAD NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP MAY 31, JUNE 1 AND 2 --- DUMPSTERS AVAILABLE

The weekend of May 31, June 1-2, NEAD will be hosting an area wide neighborhood clean-up and membership drive. NEAD has secured seven dumpsters from the City that will be placed throughout the NEAD area. Two locations will be in the Browncroft Neighborhood. They will be located at 193 Croydon Road (between Dorchester and Blossom Road) and at 155 Elmcroft Road.

BNA OFFICER ELECTIONS FOR 1991-92

At the Annual Meeting May 23rd, BNA members in attendance will be voting for the 1991-92 BNA Officers. The Nominating Committee has put forth the following nominees to the membership: President - Betsy Clifford, Vice-President - Laura Viau, Treasurer - James Nicholson, and Secretary - Pam Dalton.

HELP WANTED! ---- NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Both the BNA Newsletter Editor (4 years) and BNA's Membership Chairperson (4 years) will be "retiring" from their positions at the BNA Annual Meeting on May 23rd. These two very important positions need to be filled as soon as possible during June and July as activity picks up for the August Membership Drive and initial Browncroft Crier for the new BNA year. Interested neighbors may submit their names to any of the new officers or to your Street Rep.

LET'S GET DRESSED FOR SUMMER

--- CASSY PETSOS

It's time to rake away the winter blahs, sweep the dirt off the sidewalks and get the tree islands in shape. Did you know that until the 1940's the Browncroft Realty Company maintained the tree islands (the green strip between the sidewalks and curb) in the Browncroft neighborhood. These malls were an integral part of the design of the neighborhood. For this reason Brown Brothers Nursery, the parent company of the realty corporation which developed the subdivision, mowed the tree islands, planted and maintained the flowering shrubs, bulbs and trees to guarantee the neighborhood would look park-like and well manicured for the residents' benefit.

Today we each maintain the tree island in front of our own home as part of our front yard mowing regimen. But it takes more than a quick pass-over with a lawn mower to keep your property looking sharp. If you think of this green rectangle stretched out in front of your property as 1) a welcome mat at the entrance to your yard, and 2) the sides of a trail through our neighborhood, the importance it plays to the appearance of your home and the appearance of the neighborhood as a whole becomes clear.

Here are a few tips to sprucing-up your tree island:

1. **OVER SEEDING** - After raking debris, spread some good top soil enriched with peat (or your compost soil) over bald areas caused by City plows and ice storm damage. Level with a rake, sow with an appropriate grass mixture (for sun or shade - check with a garden center or hardware store), and tamp the seed in and keep it watered. It is also a good idea to throw seed into the rest of the grass to thicken up sparse areas.
2. **EDGING** - This is a very important, yet often over-looked, job even though edging the concrete sidewalks is quite easy with a flat edged spade. Cut off the sod overgrown onto the city sidewalk by using the edge of the sidewalk as a straight-edge guide. Find the edge of the sidewalk with your spade on the first cut and follow it along the rest of the way on both sides of the sidewalk. edge along the street curb, as well, and the gratification you will feel when you behold the improved appearance from this one task is worth it! The trick is the flat edged spade. This gardener finds working with circular edging tools a struggle.
3. **SWEEPING** - If necessary shoveling out the mud slicks on the sidewalks. Tilted sidewalks collect water, which when it evaporates leaves sediments covering the sidewalk. Mowing and leaving grass clippings which decompose into the soil on the sidewalks and forms a germination bed for more sod aggravates the mud slick problem and creates more edging work.
4. **PRUNING** - Flowering shrubs should be pruned right after they bloom. If done later the flower buds for next year will be cut off. Prune to remove dead wood, suckers which sap strength from the shrub, crossovers which rum against and damage other branches, and to contain the size of the shrub. Remember also, to consider sight safety. Flowering shrubs on the tree islands are a specialty in this neighborhood; but unless they are properly maintained this asset will become a liability.
5. **PLANT FLOWERS** - Flowers look pretty around the base of trees and shrubs. Annuals bloom all summer. Perennials will bloom for a specific period of time during the season. Whatever your preference, the ground the flowers are planted in should be kept cultivated and have a neat edge, otherwise the flowers will be mistaken for weeds.

That should do it! But one more thing - nothing defaces the "look" like piles of rubbish placed-out on the weekend and left until garbage day. Keep garbage bags in your garage or back of the house until the night before pick-up. This is good sense, courteous to the neighbors, and the law!

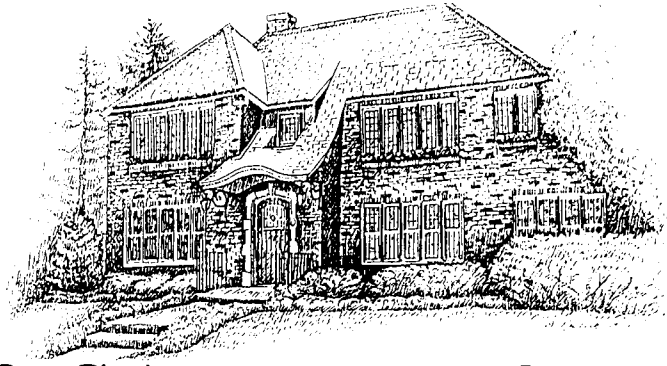
BROWNCROFT CRIER WRAP UP

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 August 20th.

The Landmark Society

of Western New York

Presents...



1991 HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

Saturday & Sunday, June 8 & 9, 1991 • 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

This year's tour will feature Rochester's Browncroft neighborhood. This former nursery area has been landscaped with flowering shrubs and larger trees. Even with the destruction caused by this spring's ice storm, this area still displays one of Rochester's outstanding arrays of gardens and majestic public plantings. Eleven residences and the 1932 Gothic-style Charles Carroll School, will be open for viewing. Also featured is one of the first homes built in the neighborhood, a fine Arts & Crafts-style house designed by Gordon & Kaelber. Other tour residences include fine examples of Tudor, Colonial Revival, Italian Renaissance and eclectic styles, built between 1916 and 1923. Several outstanding gardens will also be on view.

Jean France, architectural historian, will present a free lecture for all ticket holders on the architecture and history of this neighborhood, at 319 Browncroft Blvd (former Emmanuel Covenant Church), Wednesday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m. Tour tickets may be purchased at that time.

TICKETS

\$8.50 in advance • \$10 on days of the tour
(or free with a new Landmark Society membership)

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE

- **Balsam's Food Market, 288 North Winton Road**
- **Irondequoit Garden Center, 1936 Hudson Avenue**
- **Parkleigh, 215 Park Avenue**
- **Pickles Pharmacy, 877 South Avenue**

Landmark Society Headquarters, 133 South Fitzhugh Street

For more information call the Landmark Society at 546-7029