



Browncroft Crier

The Official Newsletter of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association

Since 1973 – Issue #130

• P.O. Box 10127

• Rochester, New York

• June 2001

BNA Family Picnic

rain or shine, pack a picnic and join your
Browncroft neighbors

Friday, July 20th

5:00 p.m. to closing time

**at Hazelwood Lodge
in Ellison Park.**

BNA will provide charcoal fires for grilling, hot dogs, buns,
trimmings and lemonade

Please bring a dish to pass and dishes, silverware, etc. for
your family.

We are planning some children's activities.

It's free. It's fun.

It's a wonderful way to get to know each other!

Questions? RSVP by July 16

call Diana Thornton 288-7176

Membership

By Ann Williams

Please welcome the following new Street Representatives: Karen Schillinger on Elm Dr., Melody Sharkey on Elm Dr., Tricia Buckley on Elmcroft Rd., Hilary Appelman on Windemere Rd., Noel & Connie Gilheany on Windemere Rd., Michelle La-Russa Trott on Croydon Rd., Joyce McAndrews on Newcastle Rd., Tonya Gunderman on Beresford Rd. and Anne Duckett of Beresford Rd.

Thanks to our retiring Street Reps for their many years of service to The BNA: Nancy Loftus of Dorchester Rd., Mary Lisa Sisson of Windemere Rd., Betty Della Porta of Windemere Rd., Pam Compson of Newcastle Rd., Jack Bloemendaal of Quentin Rd., Sue DaRin of ELm Dr., Lydia Calzone of Croydon Rd., Robert Novack of Croydon Rd., Pat Larrabee of Beresford Rd. and Deborah Costello of Beresford Rd.

If you are interested in being a street rep or would like to help with delivering newsletters, please give me a call at 288-6295. This is a great way to meet your neighbors !! Assistance is particularly needed for Quentin Rd., Dorchester Rd. and Berwick Rd.

BNA Annual Meeting

By Holly Petsos

Browncroft neighbors had an "up-close and personal" experience at BNA's Annual Membership Meeting. Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr. presented the City's Smart Growth slide show and afterward addressed the audience and answered questions.

Many neighbors commented that they enjoyed the experience of having a dialogue with the Mayor.

David Kaiser of Yarmouth Road was elected President of BNA and Mary Ann Evans of Croydon returns as Treasurer. We wish them a good and productive year.

If anyone is interested as serving as Vice President or Secretary, please contact David Kaiser at 654-6604.

Officers

President - David Kaiser 654-6604

Vice President - Open

Treasurer - Mary Ann Evans

Secretary - Open

District Reps

Elm - Open

Corwin - Holly Petsos 288-0955

Croydon - Barb Duffy

Committee Chairs

Beautification - Cassy Petsos 288-0955

Crime Prevention - Bob Genthner 482-2441

Historical - Sharon Bloemendaal 288-6359

Hospitality - Diana Thornton 288-7176

Membership - Ann Williams 288-6295

Newsletter - Sharon Orienter 288-8076

Zoning - Holly Petsos 288-0955

Helpful Information from Neighborhood Empowerment Team(NET)

By Carolyn Argust

City of Rochester refuse code rules are followed by the majority of Browncroft residents. Perhaps new residents are unaware of the rules. Be a good neighbor, share this information with them if you observe a violation.

Roll the Refuse Cart (green toter) to the curb and place bulk items & Blue Box at the curb by 6:30 a.m. or no earlier than the night before the regular collection day. (Wednesday is the collection day for Browncroft)

Prepare refuse, garbage & recyclables properly. **The Rolling Refuse Cart:** Household refuse, yard waste & any other refuse that fits must be placed in the City-provided Refuse Cart. If the Refuse Cart is full, garbage cans and plastic bags can be used for additional refuse.

Bulk Refuse: items such as household furniture, mattresses, large appliances & bundled tree/hedge trimmings must be placed between the sidewalk and the curb. Remove doors from refrigerators or other appliances with latches. Tie loose wood, trees, bushes & hedges in bundles that are no longer than 4 feet and 18 inches in diameter and no more than 60 pounds.

Recycling Blue Box: put clean newspapers, magazines, corrugated cardboard & glass, metal & plastic food containers in the Blue Box. Corrugated boxes (2 ft. X 4 ft. max.) must be flattened and placed in, under or next to the Blue Box at the curb. Other recyclables that don't fit in the Blue Box, like crushed plastic containers & extra newspapers can be placed in brown paper bags (not plastic bags) next to the Blue Box.

Remove containers after pick up: all refuse & recycling containers must be removed from the area between the sidewalk & curb within 24 hours after collection & returned to their storage area at the rear or side yard of the premises. (Blue boxes may be kept indoors).

Never dump illegally: dumping refuse or waste on any public property or right-of-way, placing refuse in front of any premises where it was not generated or putting household or business refuse in public litter receptacles is illegal. Illegal dumping is a serious offense & fines may be im-

posed. If you see someone illegally dumping, get a license number & a description of the vehicle & operator. Then call the City's service office at 428-5990.

Recent violations observed by NET inspectors in Browncroft include refuse placed in cardboard boxes, tree limbs not bundled, and refuse at the curb before Tuesday night. Please help new neighbors know the rules.

Browncroft Boulevard Construction Update

The water main is in, and as of June 21st one half of the water services to the homes had been tied in. The new catch basins have been installed and fire hydrants. Additional adjustments will be made to the hydrants to raise them up into proper position. The week of June 25th began the street light conduit installation. The conduit will go under the sidewalks on the north side of the street, and cross under the street to the light poles on the south side.

Controversy regarding the street lights to be installed is now a Browncroft issue, too. The City has offered an option for Browncroft to keep mercury vapor (white) lights, rather than take high pressure sodium (orange) lights, if residents pay a special assessment. Residents will be petitioning to have a newer white light technology used on Browncroft, which is far more energy efficient and has a longer life than high pressure sodium, while producing the same lumen level. This new electrodeless light, which is used in Europe and is just beginning to show up in American cities, such as San Diego and Portland, casts a warm white light similar to incandescent in quality, only brighter. Because it is more energy efficient and is less costly to maintain, the need for a special assessment should be eliminated. Browncroft would make an excellent pilot project for installation of this new technology.

The next phase will be new street surface, curbs and lastly, sidewalk installation. Because the large sycamore trees are so close to the curb in certain places, a steel curb will be used rather than the thicker granite curbs used everywhere else.

The project is on schedule and should be completed by mid-August, according to the project coordinator.

Historic District Update

The layout of pavement and houses on the landscape has been measured on all the affected streets. Volunteers measured the street beds, tree lawn areas, sidewalks and set backs of the houses, as this data is also needed for the cultural resource survey because it defines the original plan of the neighborhood. Brown's vision of fine residential housing built within a designed park-like landscape was implemented in this layout.

The flowering trees and shrubs were photographed during their various peak blooming periods to document this unusual legacy of our neighborhood. Browncroft in spring time is an extremely heady and beautiful world. However, it was no small feat to get picturesque slides of magnolias when little orange construction fences abound, as well as so many home improvement contractors signs! It took some cagey framing, but the results are good.

It was enjoyable meeting friendly and history minded neighbors whose yards we trespassed to take our measurements. Thank you all for your encouragement and participation.

Browncroft Beautification Committee Works On

Despite the distraction of construction work on Browncroft Boulevard, the Beautification Committee continues its work this season to plant and maintain the annual bed and the rose beds in the Browncroft Rose Garden at the corner of Browncroft Boulevard and Merchants Road. This will be a difficult season for gardening at this site, as the water has been turned off while new water mains are installed on Browncroft. Needless to say, we hope for rain fall at regular intervals to sustain the plants.

Thank you's are in order to Rosemarie Hatman, Joyce DeBlieck, Laura Viau, Doug Anderson, Eileen Vanderzwan, Margaret Richter, Jeanne Loysen, and Cassy Petsos for their work on the annual bed clean up and planting.

Weed Whackers Damage

In our endeavor to maintain well groomed lawns, and save time by using power tools, the weed whacker has become a common household instrument, while hand clippers have become practically extinct.

But don't get rid of those hand clippers. They are the only safe way to trim grass around trees, other than pulling the tall blades unreachable by the lawn mower. Weed whacking around the base of a tree is slow death for the tree. And don't let your lawn service tell you otherwise.

The whip of the whacker may be harmless to fence posts, garden edges, and fire hydrants, but not to the bark of a tree. Any scarring which encircles the trunk of a tree, such as that which occurs from a weed whacker, will cause a decline which will prevent the tree from reaching its full life span. This writer has witnessed the death of two young trees on the public right of way (one on Corwin Road and one on Dorchester) that likely met their demise from rotting scar tissue encircling their bases.

Unfortunately, the City Parks Department continues to disregard our requests to not weed whack the trees in the Browncroft Rose Garden at Browncroft and Merchants Road, and one can witness this type of scarring, as well as the nicks of lawn mowers on every single tree in the park and tree lawns surrounding it. Three maple trees died a few years back due to this damage, and the demise of more crab trees is imminent.

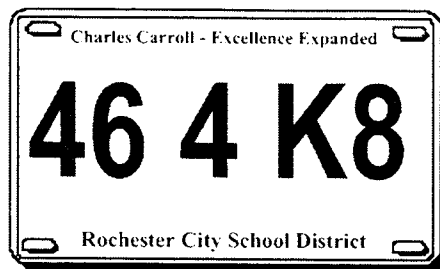
Please take care not to damage your trees, and our public trees in the right of way. They are so important to our neighborhood environment and aesthetics.

**All of the previous four articles
by Cassie Petros**

Laura Viau from Elmcroft Road won a block party from radio station WBEE. It was held on Tuesday, June 12. Dinosaur Barbecue provided the scrumptious food. Billy the Kidd from WBEE visited with neighbors and put some of the children on the air.

There was a huge inflatable ride that was enjoyed by both children and adults. We kicked off summer in a big way!

Quentin Road won a WBEE party last year. Applications are available at Wegmans.



K-8 Open Forum Update

By Mark Wilson

A community meeting was held at School 46 on May 2, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. to allow neighbors to address concern and voice support regarding the expansion of School 46 to a K-8. About forty people attended, including Bolgan Vargas, President of the Rochester City School Board.

The evening began with a twenty-minute presentation by members of the task force, including the school's principal, Miriam Jurado, summarizing the past several years of work by about 75 to 100 volunteers. Topics covered included: Overall organizational approach used by the task force; Pro's & Con's of adding 7th and 8th grades; Communication and survey results; Literature search and interview findings; Summary of a visit to Buffalo K-8 schools; Overview of the current design concept; Overview of curriculum drivers and continued standard of excellence.

After the presentation, nine attendees volunteered questions and comments; five with strong support, three with questions and concerns, one with strong opposition. "Retaining neighbors" topped the list of support from several. "I have lost two families on my street within the past month", one long-term resident lamented. Excellent standards and learning environment, and valuing the diversity of the school were other accolades. "Making current traffic conditions even worse" topped the concerns (see "TRAFFIC!"). Additional concerns included questioning the standards of the school and the curriculum implementation. A question was raised as to whether the school could become strictly a neighborhood school. Bolgan Vargas reminded the audience that the immediate feeder zone fills only about half the desks. The economic and curricular challenges of providing for that small a student enrollment are prohibitive.

When questioned about the number of students being added to the school, Mark W. Wilson, the K-8 task force leader, reiterated that 2 classes per grade would be added, increasing the current enrollment of 350 by about 80-100 students.

The timeframe for the expansion remains open. Formal curriculum and facilities design has already begun. Construction logistics and building permits must be considered. Generic City School District guidelines quote 3-5 years to build a school, but eager supporters point out that this is only a building addition that will feed existing students up two grades—and numerous charter schools locally and around the country are able to open within months. Design and construction logistics are joined by the fact that School 46 is short one room for implementation of the new Rochester-wide full-day kindergarten program. Additionally, proper safety mandates that early construction take place when the kindergarten wing is not occupied. Portables will be utilized as an interim solution.

For additional information or to volunteer on the task force, please call Mark W. Wilson at 482-5524

TRAFFIC !

in the Browncroft Neighborhood

One of the top items of concern that surfaced during School 46's May 2nd open forum for the K-8 was "traffic". Crowded streets at dismissal. Cars turning around in driveways, traveling too fast, not properly stopping at intersections.

While there are specific school-related aspects, improving traffic safety in our neighborhood is of importance to everyone—at all times of the day. In fact, a study conducted by the BNA a few years ago indicated the bulk of BNA traffic was from our own BNA residents.

The BNA is forming a small traffic task force to brainstorm and implement ways to raise traffic safety and awareness. We need participants as well as a task force leader. Please call: David Kaiser, BNA President 654-6604 or Mark W. Wilson, K-8 Task Force Leader 482-5524.

From your editor:

The next issue deadline is August 3

Please send all submissions, articles, announcements to me:

Sharon Orienter:

e-mail - SEO2@AOL.com or

soriente@libraryweb.org

fax - 428-8353:

phone - days 428-8327.

home 288-8076:

address - 116 Browncroft Blvd.

All submissions **MUST BE TYPED.**

I prefer that all text be sent electronically,

on disk or by e-mail, but if you cannot do

so, please send your copy, typed, by mail or

drop it off at my home. **PLEASE NOTE:**

Items NOT submitted in writing and