



# Browncroft Crier

The Official Newsletter of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association

Since 1973 – Issue #133

P.O. Box 10127

Rochester, New York

March 2002

## President's Message

This morning, the first robin I've seen this year greeted me as I stepped out the back door - a true sign that spring is arriving! As we move forward into the season, your Association has two events planned, a return engagement of the slide show highlighting neighborhood history and architecture on April 11, and our Annual Meeting on May 23. Along with the business meeting and election of officers we will have an entertaining and educational presentation on "Man's (and Woman's) Best Friends" by a Rochester Animal Control officer.

The BNA Board currently has two vacancies - Vice-president and Secretary. If you'd like to volunteer some of your time to enhance your neighborhood, or wish to nominate someone, let me know.

I look forward to seeing you at our events.

David Dickinson Kaiser, BNA President



## BNA Annual Meeting

We have reserved May 23rd for the Annual Meeting. It will be held at the Browncroft Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m. Come and elect officers of the organization and help set the priorities for the new year.



## Your neighborhood organization needs you!

Diana Thornton will no longer be serving as Hospitality Chair, she is moving out of the neighborhood. We thank Diana for her years of fine service and the lovely events she planned for all of us.

This means we now have yet another vacancy on our Executive Committee. If you would be willing to give some time to organize social events, such as the Holiday Dinner and summer Family Picnic for BNA, please contact David Kaiser. We also still need a Vice-President, a Secretary and an Elm District Rep.



## General Membership Meeting

Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m.

at the Browncroft Baptist Church, 420 N. Winton Road.

Sharon Bloemendaal will present our popular Historic Slide Show to our membership on April 11th. Whether you are a long time resident, or a new neighbor, it is a treat to view these evocative old photographs and early plat maps of the neighborhood. Sharon has given our neighborhood history lecture and slide show to many town historians, landmark conferences and historical groups, and it has been as popular with these non-residents, as it is within the neighborhood. The show is constantly evolving with new slides and information and always a delight for neighbors.

The meeting will also include updates on the National Register Nomination, the project getting underway to restore the Browncroft cast iron markers, the concrete street light system reconstruction, and a brief discussion of what is needed to preserve the signature Browncroft landscape design. The ideas and participation of the residents on these projects are welcome.



## Membership

Spring has arrived and it is time for the annual BNA membership drive !!! Look for the new envelope/membership application in this newsletter. You may either mail in your dues payment or drop it off to your Street Rep. Dues are \$ 5 and support the ongoing activities of the BNA including publishing this newsletter, maintaining the Rose Garden on Browncroft Blvd., holding general membership meetings and hosting the biennial neighborhood garage sale, annual holiday party and summer picnic. Thank you for supporting your neighborhood association by mailing in your dues today !

Ann Williams, 288-6295

## National Register Nomination

Work continues on the cultural resource survey for the nomination of Browncroft to the National Register of Historic Places, as a premiere example of an early twentieth century planned subdivision and landscape. It is hoped that the extensive documentation and the historical context statement will be ready for the September Board meeting of the State Department of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Our regional Field Investigator from the State, who will be our presenter/advocate before the Board, has met recently with us to go over some of the preliminary preparations prior to the Board meeting, and to review slides of the neighborhood which will be shown to the review board. The Board's time will be limited; therefore, the neighborhood architecture, landscaping and general character must be exhibited in only 20 color slides. The cultural resource survey document itself, however, contains a black and white photograph of every home, as well as views of the landscape.

The proposed Browncroft Historic District nomination is more complex than the other historic neighborhood nominations in Rochester because it is considered significant as an historic landscape as well as a collection of architectural elements. As a result the nomination document is more like two nominations in one.

Though being listed on the National Register is strictly honorary, it provides a sense of place in the community which will help contribute to an understanding of, and commitment to, preservation.

It is never too late to make contributions to the History Fund. Starting with the next issue of the Crier, the names of all neighbors who have contributed to the fund will be published as a way to recognize and thank those who are making the Browncroft Historic District possible.

### 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

(seo2@aol.com)

Zoning - Holly Petsos 288-0955

## Spring Clean-up in the Browncroft Rose Garden

The Beautification Committee has selected Saturday, April 20th to prune the rose bushes and weed the beds. This workday is very important in that it sets the ground work for the season. This year we would like to see the rose garden get back into shape after the construction last year, and to look its best for the thousands of Landmark Society House and Garden Tour visitors coming to the neighborhood.

**Come and join us between  
9:30 and noon on April 20th  
(with a rain date of April 27th).**

Bring thick gloves, pruners or loppers, something to kneel on and wear warm waterproof foot gear. We have lots of great reading material on rose pruning and maintenance that we would be glad to share. Experience is not necessary to lend a hand. Come and meet your neighbors, contribute to your neighborhood and be part of a community gardening project. Please call Cassy Petsos at 288-0955, if you have any questions.

This will be a great way to celebrate Earth Day in your neighborhood!



## Construction Begins Again

It will shortly be that time of year again, when the sounds, sights and mess of road construction will be upon us.

### Marion St. from Blossom to Humboldt

Street construction includes: new curbs, driveway aprons, sidewalks and landscaping. Contractor: GA Falcone. Estimated completion: May, 2002. Restricted two way traffic. For more information see on site representative Sid Reedhead or call City Project Manager, Jim Cortina at 428-6840.

### Monticello Pk. from Berwick to Elmcroft

Utility work. Restricted traffic 7:00 A.M. thru 5 P.M. For more information call City Permit Office at 428-6849.

### Winton Rd. from Colebourne to Merchants

Street construction to resume, including: new pavement; new driveway aprons, and receiving basins; sidewalk replacement; topsoil and seeding. Contractor: Frederico Construction. Estimated completion: June, 2002. Restricted Two Way traffic. For more information see on site representative Randy Mastin or call City Project Manager, Jim DiNardo at 428-6840.

For weekly updates go to the City's web site ([cityofrochester.gov](http://cityofrochester.gov)) and click on Street Beat

## 2002 Landmark House Tour Comes to Browncroft

Once again, the Browncroft Neighborhood will be the site of the Landmark Society House and Garden Tour the weekend of June 1st and 2nd. The Landmark Society House Tour was in Browncroft in 1991 and it was a banner year for ticket sales. There will be eleven houses on the tour this year, and School #46 will be open for tour goers to visit.

The school will also be the administrative site for the tour where attendees can pickup tickets, browse the landmark bookstore, have a refreshing drink, and use restrooms.

The Landmark tour has a loyal following of about 2000 attendees from all around the county each year. Buses will be bringing visitors from Geneva and Buffalo, as well.

It is not just the houses which are open on the tour that contribute to this event; but rather, every property in the neighborhood, viewed by the visitors as they stroll our streets from tour stop to tour stop. This event is a wonderful opportunity for the neighborhood to show tour goers from all around the region the special charm of Browncroft, that we residents know and love — from the architecture of the homes to the mature and picturesque landscape.

(Volunteers are always needed to staff the houses. Please call Holly Petsos, 288-0955, to volunteer or for ticket information.)

The Browncroft History District fund is still taking donations to cover the cost of the cultural

resource survey & associated photographic & duplication expenses for the application to the State for historic district designation and listing on the National Register of Historic

Places. Please contribute

by sending a check to:

The BNA History Fund,

P.O. Box 10127,

Rochester, NY

14610.

# **BNA Family Picnic**

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

## **Thursday, July 25**

### **5:30 p.m.**

**at Hazelwood Lodge in Ellison Park**

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Browncroft Neighborhood Association

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.

It's free. It's fun.

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

**RSVP by July 20 • call 654-6604**



**The Browncroft  
Neighborhood Association's  
Winter Gathering**

*will be at  
Glendoveer's  
2328 Old Browncroft Blvd.*

*Friday, January 24th*

*5:30 - 6:30 ish — Cocktail Hour with hors d'oeuvres  
6:30 ish - 'till — Grazing Buffet - Chef Carved Striploin  
of Beef & Fresh Turkey Plus Three Tables  
of Assorted Gourmet Delights*

*Tickets are \$15 per person*

*For reservations please call  
Tonya Gunderman at 482-7835  
before January 19*