



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973-VOLUME #137

P.O. Box 10127 Rochester New York 14610

OCTOBER 2004

General Membership Meeting Subject: Crime



**November 10th
7:00 p.m.
Browncroft Baptist Church
Winton Road**

Guest speaker -
East side Commander Shepard
of the Rochester Police Department

Your neighborhood association has organized this meeting due to the expressed concerns of residents. Commander Shepard will be best able to discuss these matters with you.

BNA committee reports and matters of importance will also be on the agenda either before or after Commander Shepard's talk.

Mark this meeting on your calendar and please plan on attending.

**School 46 PTA Evening
with School Board
Commissioner Domingo
Garcia
Wednesday, November 3rd
7 p.m.**

(Details on page 2)

**Preservation Board
Meeting:
Landmark Status Sought
for Greek Revival
19th Century Farmhouse
Wednesday November 3rd
6:00 p.m.**

(Details on page 4)

PCIC is for YOU!

Future meetings of the Police and Citizens Interaction Committee (PCIC) for the former Goodman Section (new PSA 26/29) will be at a new location, St. John the Evangelist Church Hall on Humboldt Street, and will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. The meetings are open to the general public and are usually attended by about 40 people including neighbors, businesses, neighborhood group reps, Church and School reps and other area organizations. Time is set aside at the end for a general "around the table" for comments, concerns, and feedback. Hear the latest about the area's "Quality of Life" issues and concerns from the NET Administrator. Learn about the monthly activities in fighting crime from our NET Lieutenant, Crime Prevention Officer (CPO), PAC-TAC Coordinator, RPD Eastside Captains, RPD Field Investigation Unit, and others. This is an excellent opportunity.

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Membership Drive Coming to a Neighborhood Near YOU

It's time for our BNA membership drive. Look for a new envelope/membership application in this newsletter. You may mail your dues payment or drop it off to your Street Rep. Annual dues are \$5 and support the activities of the BNA. Some of the activities include publishing this newsletter, maintaining the Rose Garden on Browncroft Blvd., holding general membership meetings, and hosting the bi-annual neighborhood garage sale, annual holiday party, and summer picnic. This year we have added a space for your e-mail address. Please include it if you wish to receive information about BNA, such as topics for the monthly meetings and notification of on-line postings of information and meeting minutes.

There are many opportunities to work with the BNA. One of them is to be a street representative. More hands make work easier. Street Reps deliver the BNA Newsletter to their neighbors, welcome new families to the neighborhood, and act as a focal point to bring issues to the BNA monthly meetings. If you are interested in more information about becoming a Street Rep, note on the membership envelope, or contact me.

Craig Epperson 482-8371 craige@rochester.rr.com

SCHOOL #46 PTA MEETING

The community is invited to a School #46 PTA Evening with School Board Commissioner Domingo Garcia on Wednesday, November 3. We need a good turnout to show him the strength of support in the community for School 46. Please come - and bring your neighbors!

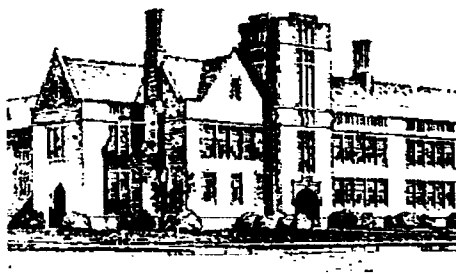
Since the start of the school year, many members of this community have approached the PTA with a concern about School #46 staffing and programming losses. The PTA has invited our board liaison, Commissioner Domingo Rivera, to come to our school for a productive conversation on what our community can do proactively about these losses.

Concerns raised include:

Staffing Challenges: School Librarian is only half-time (since 2003). This has led to many students not being able to access this valuable classroom resource properly, especially students in the lower grades.

Cutback of Spanish Language Teacher (2004).

Cutback of Music class offering to



Kindergarten(2004)

Cutback of Technology (Computers) teacher (since 2003).

Cutback of One Cafeteria Person (2004). This has led to 4 versus 3 lunch periods a day, with some students waiting until 1:15 for lunch, and many students only having 10 minutes to eat.

Programming Challenges:

No funds were given to School #46 in 2004 from the school reform models.

School of the Arts Magnet School was proposed and received no response from RSCD.

K - 8 proposal was worked on very hard by the community and has since been halted by the RSCD.

Note: This is intended to be a POSITIVE meeting looking for solutions not an ambush of Commissioner Garcia re. everything the RSCD has done wrong!

For more information contact:

Hilary Appelman, 80 Windemere Rd., 482-4178

POINT OF VIEW...

DRIVEWAYS CAN BE DANGEROUS FOR PEDESTRIANS

In the past few years 5 people with disabilities have been struck by cars. Four of these were walking on the public sidewalk and were struck by cars leaving their driveways.

I am one of those people. I am totally blind and walk, every morning with a Seeing Eye dog. I was struck by a person leaving his driveway. He was very upset and said that he didn't see me.

On another occasion I was nearly hit again, by a different person. The lady explained that her neighbor had hedges and she couldn't see past them. I suggested that she ask her neighbors to trim the hedges.

Remember, many children walk on these sidewalks. Also, elderly people and animals are on the walks. Every driver needs to make sure the walk is clear before exiting his/her driveway.

Another thing is that many people seem to think that they can park on the sidewalk. Many times I have to go around a parked car on a sidewalk. This is against the law.

Sometimes if a person with a guide dog gets hit, the dog becomes nervous and will not work again. These dogs take several thousands of dollars to raise and to train. Should the dog require retirement, the person then needs to go back to the beginning and get a different dog. I can only tell you that this is a very sad situation both for the person and the dog.

Please, when you leave your driveway, look both ways. A child could be out there or even an elderly person or an animal.

I would appreciate my neighbors' thoughtfulness with this.

Irma Herzog, Yarmouth Road

BNA Picnic – Wet but cozy

On August 4th the weather forecast was stormy but the picnic did go on in Ellison Park. However, the picnic planners moved the affair across the parking lot from Spruce Shelter to South Lodge to ensure our members stayed dry.

The lodge was cozy and warm and everyone JUST fit. President, Henry Viau took up his post at the barbeque pit, sheltered by a golf umbrella, and kept the hot dogs coming. There were many delicious dishes shared among friends and neighbors.

Robert Engler, Field Representative, from the State Office of Historic Preservation was also in attendance to hand out testimonial certificates from the State of New York to residents that worked to get Browncroft listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.



BNA Picnic in South Lodge, Ellison Park

Bill Knapp's Memorial Fund to Benefit Historic Landscape

After the 1991 ice storm Bill Knapp, as a retired Director of Parks and former City Forester, donated his time to inventory the trees that comprise the Browncroft historic landscape. Though few trees were lost out right, many were damaged or weakened by the ice storm. As part of the inventory Bill rated the condition of each tree in the front yards and on the tree lawns between the sidewalk and street, and he made a longevity prediction based on its condition.

In 1991 and 1992 a tree committee met to address the preservation of the historic Browncroft landscape. It was discussed that we needed to inform residents about the original designed landscape of the Browncroft subdivision and to encourage individual property owners, each of whom held a piece of the that landscape, to perpetuate the unique look and feeling of being enclosed in a leafy bower of large shade trees and an understory of flowing ornamental trees and shrubs. We arranged a 10% discount at the Garden Factor for members of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association to buy Norway maple, linden, English oak, or tulip trees.

Bill repeated this arduous inventory again in 2001 for the National Register of Historic Places survey, and as Bill had predicted, within 10 years a number of the Norway maples planted by Brown Brothers were gone. many limbs.

In the intervening years a few residents have graciously replanted the "holes" in the line located just inside the sidewalk. However, many of these interruptions in the integrity of the original design, some of which predated the ice storm, still exist. And in the last few years more have occurred. Concerned about the fate of the historic landscape, Bill agreed that perhaps the time had come to do fund raising to purchase trees to plant with the consent of property owners.

Contributions made in memory of Bill Knapp to the Browncroft Historic Preservation fund will be used to replant trees to keep the Browncroft landscape intact for current and future generations of residents to experience and enjoy. The BNA tree committee will be reinstituted to work on identifying areas that need planting, and contacting home owners.

Anyone wishing to participate in this project please contact Cassy Petsos 288-0955.



PCIC (from Page 1)

nity to hear first hand "up to the minute" information and possibly have a timely impact on improving our neighborhood.

The next scheduled meeting is on **November 11th** and will be held at St. John the Evangelist Church Hall on Humboldt Street, at 6:30 to 8:00 PM. There is ample parking in the rear of the Church. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Genthner, 482-2441, BNA Crime Prevention Chairperson.

Alert! There have been several incidents over the past 6 months, where a purse or other valuable was left in plain sight from an outside window. The thief is smashing the window with a nearby object and grabbing the item. Occupants have been home and asleep. Please stay vigilant and call 911 if suspicious persons are in yours or your neighbor's yard late at night (or during the day)!

WINTON BRANCH LIBRARY CORNER

The Winton library hosted a Fall Festival on Saturday, October 2nd. The community was invited for crafts, refreshments and prizes. Doug Rougeux, "The Bubble Man" provided spectacular entertainment as he created bubbles to amuse and awe. The ultimate grand finale enclosed a young Winton Library patron within a gigantic bubble.

The next meeting of the **Winton Reading Group** is **Monday, November 1st** from 7:00 - 8:45. Leap of Faith: Memoirs of an Unexpected Life by Queen Noor is the current selection. Copies of the book are available at the library circulation desk for reading group participants. The Winton Reading Group is open to all and welcomes newcomers.

Landmark Status Sought for 669 North Winton Road

The Preservation Board of the City of Rochester agreed to hear the application made by North Winton Village Association to have 669 North Winton Road designated a landmark.

The Browncroft Neighborhood Association Board voted at the last meeting to support the application, given this 1840's farmhouse is considered one of the most historically and architecturally significant buildings in the area, as an intact example of Greek Revival domestic architecture.

The names of the 19th century farmer/nurserymen owners are a who's who for students of their Browncroft Neighborhood history book - Isaac Moore, William Hoyt and heirs and Moses Smith. The early 20th century owners were also familiar names - Hoster and Spies.

It is currently owned by Sally Thompkins. The owner will be opposing the designation.

The Preservation Board will hear the application on November 3rd in City Hall Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.



Reminder

Fall leaf pickup for this neighborhood is scheduled by the City of Rochester Department of Environmental Services for the week of:

November 15- November 19.



Parks Department to Assist BNA

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED IN THE BROWNCROFT ROSE GARDEN

On September 17th Cassy Petsos, BNA Beautification Chairperson, met with Terry McEntee, Horticulturalist with the City of Rochester Department of Parks, and George VanGrohl, Foreman, to discuss improvements to the Browncroft Rose Garden (the city park at the intersection of Merchants Road and Browncroft Boulevard) that would contribute to easier maintenance, as well as to ensure that this highly visible and historic park remain an attractive asset to our neighborhood and the City.

Items which the City will provide included: four benches; replacement plantings for crab trees that have died and been removed; addition of other varieties of flowering trees, such as magnolia and dogwood; and an attractive litter container.

Horticultural tasks which the City can undertake for the park include: edging the beds in spring, propagating the old rose bushes still surviving from the original planting of the garden in c1930s; closing poor sections of two existing beds and opening fresh ground to extend those beds in another direction.

Fall Clean-up In the Browncroft Rose Garden

Fall clean-up has been scheduled for **Saturday October 30th at 9:30 a.m.** with a rain date of the following Saturday, November 6th.

Flower beds will be weeded and the rose bushes quick cut to reduce their height for the winter. Annuals will be pulled up, and if available from the City, mums will be planted.

This is an invitation to neighbors to please stop by and lend a hand to help your fellow neighbors keep your neighborhood looking good. The committee has a get-together immediately following clean-up.

School #46 Tennis Courts

The BNA Board sent a letter to Manuel Garcia in September, regarding the derelict condition of the tennis courts in the playground and the negative impact their unsightly condition had on Newcastle Road.

The letter requested that the Board of Education, perhaps in partnership with the Parks Department, take steps to patch the pavement, install a net, remove and prevent weeds, and repair and paint the fence to make this facility a neighborhood asset once more.

Our concerns were answered and the tennis courts have been transformed. Take a look. They are beautiful.

Thank you, Mr. Rivera and the City School District.

Save These Dates...

October 30 - Fall Clean Up in the Browncroft Rose Garden

November 3 - Preservation Board Meeting on Winton Road Greek Revival Farm House

November 3 - PTA Meeting with

Domingo Garcia at #46 School

November 10 - Neighborhood Meeting with City Police

January 21, 2005 - Browncroft Neighborhood Winter Gathering

May 14 and 15 2005 - BNA Garage Sale



*Have a Fun
and Safe
Halloween*