



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973-VOLUME #141

P.O. Box 10127 Rochester New York 14610

October 2005

General Membership Meeting and Lecture

Steve Jordan

on

**How to Winterize
Your Old House's
Windows and Doors
(Sensitively)**

**November 9th
7:00 p.m.**

**Browncroft Baptist Church
Winton Road near Humbolt Street**



Steve Jordan is an architectural conservator, preservation specialist, and writer. He is author of *Rehab Rochester: A Sensible Guide for Old House Maintenance, Repair, and Rehabilitation* (Landmark Society of Western New York, 1995), *Painting Kitchens - How to Choose and Use the Right Paint for your Kitchen Walls, Ceiling, Floors, Cabinets, Countertops, and Appliances*. (Co-authored with Judy Ostrow. Published by Quarry Books) and has written numerous articles for magazines and professional journals. He has been a contributing editor for *Old House Journal* since 1998 and frequently gives lectures and workshops on historic paint finishes and other topics related to home maintenance, preservation, and repair.

The neighborhood association is pleased to be able to provide you with this valuable resource on this timely topic. Given the expected increase in our energy bills, this winter, and our increased awareness of the architectural merit of our homes in this historic neighborhood, we hope our residents take advantage of this opportunity to learn the most effective techniques to winterize their vintage homes.

and

Meeting with Police Commander Shepard

**November 16th at 7:00 p.m.
Browncroft Baptist Church**

JOIN The BNA

Do you love this neighborhood? Want to make it even better? Come to the Browncroft Neighborhood Association Board of Directors meetings held on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Winton Branch Library. (Due to the Nov. 9th General Membership Meeting, the Board meeting will be relocated to the Browncroft Baptist Church)

What do you want from your neighborhood association--babysitter networks/referrals, book clubs, stay at home Mom/Dad networking, referral services for handy household stuff, running partners, pick up basketball...?

If the thought of having these activities (or others!) in your neighborhood excites you....step up and organize it! The BNA will help you find people with similar interests and will allow you to search for others through our Crier

Already doing some of these things? Open it up to your neighbors and make new friends. Please contact Karlyn Alvarado (104 Windemere, 654-9164) with any ideas/interests you may have, or notate them on your membership dues envelope.

Karlyn Alvarado
Vice President

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Beautification

Thank you Beautification volunteers. A handful of neighbors worked throughout the summer to help the City of Rochester maintain the Browncroft Rose Garden at Browncroft Boulevard and Merchants Road. It's hard work pruning roses and keeping up with the weeds in flower beds, even after the City crews did the initial cultivating and edging in the spring.

Special thanks to Mary Ann Evans, of Croydon Road, who did most of the volunteer organizing this summer, and to **Laura Viau** (Elmcroft), **Robert Kern** (Windemere), **Doug Anderson** (Dorchester), **Kathy Flynn** (Quentin), **Rosemarie Hattman** (Dorchester), **Jennifer Cummings** (Quentin), **John Edelman** (Newcastle), **Rich Ognibene** (Croydon), and **Cassy Petsos** (Browncroft).

Thank you also to **Terry McEntee**, of the City of Rochester's Department of Parks for planting hundreds of bulbs in the circular bed around the Bosnian pine trees at the point of the park. They were quite a beautiful display this past spring, and will be enjoyed again next year.

**Help out with
Fall Clean-up
October 29th
at 9:30-11:30 a.m.
in the Rose Garden**
(corner of Browncroft Boulevard
and Merchants Road).

Alternative rain date is
November 3rd

fall reminders

City leaf pickup is the third week in November. Do not continue to place loose leaves at the curb after that time.

Keep leaves out of the gutters in the street.

Burning is unlawful

Trick or Treaters are coming, so be mindful of safety issues on your property

The Trees

By Peter Schott



We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood that has an abundance of mature trees. Trees are part of our history dating back to our origin as part of the Brown Brothers Nursery. The tall trees that line our streets and beautify our yards today are the legacy of our forbears, thoughtful folks who had the foresight to plant them not only for themselves but for the enjoyment of future generations.

Everybody knows and appreciates the beauty of trees. From the emergence of new foliage and flowers in the spring, to the sound of the wind through the leaves in the summer, to the colorful fall foliage and the character of the bark and branches in the winter, trees add interest to our environment. If you have any doubt about the aesthetic value of trees, just try imagining the appearance of our neighborhood without them!

Trees also have many practical benefits. According to the National Arbor Day Foundation trees can increase your property value by 15% or more! Like all green plants, trees remove carbon dioxide from the air and produce oxygen. This is especially beneficial in our urban environment.

Street trees shade hard surfaces like concrete sidewalks and pavement to help keep the neighborhood cool. Deciduous shade trees planted on the east and west sides of your home can reduce your summer cooling costs by 15% to 35%. Evergreen trees planted as a windbreak to the north and west of your home can lower your winter heating bills by 10% to 20%.

Evergreen trees can also be used to create privacy and isolate noise, two additional benefits that are helpful in an urban setting.

Trees attract and provide nesting sites and food for birds and other wildlife.

In the Brown Brothers original planting plans for the neighborhood, small flowering ornamentals occupied the tree lawn (the area between the curb and the sidewalk) and large trees were planted parallel to the street in our front yards. The Association recommends this approach to maintain the landscape's historical significance. It is part of what makes our neighborhood unique and special. Additionally, planting the large shade trees along the front property line keeps them a safe distance from the house, while providing shade for walkers and a strong visual esthetic.

Please take care of the trees on your property and consider filling any voids in the landscape with new plantings. You too can create a legacy and perpetuate the beauty and practical benefits that we all enjoy today.

Bill Knapp Memorial Funds Tree Grant

The BNA is pleased to announce the availability of matching grants to replace trees in our neighborhood.

Bill Knapp was a long time neighborhood resident and retired City Forester and Director of Parks and Recreation. Following his death last year a memorial fund was established to honor his memory by restoring trees in the historic Browncroft landscape.

The Board has determined that the best way to use the funds is by offering a matching grant to encourage homeowners to replace trees that have been lost over the years. The grant will match up to 50% (not to exceed \$200) of the cost of purchasing and installing a qualified planting. Grant applications will be made available from the BNA website or by contacting 288-0955 and leaving a message including your name, address, telephone number and email if possible. Grants will be available on a first come, first serve basis until the memorial fund is exhausted.

Happy Hour!!!

Share a cocktail with your neighbors!

Friday, November 11th,
6pm-?
Winfield Grill
(Don't know anyone- look
for Browncroft T-shirts)

We would love to see you
there!

Zoning – More Bikini Bar Issues

There was hearing before the City of Rochester Planning Commission on Monday October 17th regarding the excessive signage at the Portside Bar at 669 N. Winton Road. The “bikini bar” owner was cited by the City for having more than his allowable 9 sq. feet of signage. There is in excess of 70 sq. feet.

The owner then applied to the City to be allowed to keep what was currently there. Several neighbors and North Winton Village Association representatives went to the hearing to ask the City to make the owner comply with the code.

Currently there are neon signs in every window except in the rear two windows and in some cases there are two signs in the windows and banners hanging from the building.

Mr. Giancola, the proprietor, feels the signs are artful and inviting while the neighbors think they are an eye sore.

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Membership

It's time for our BNA membership drive. Look for the envelope/membership application in this newsletter. You may mail your dues payment or drop it off to your Street Rep.

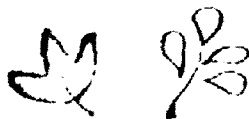
Annual dues are \$5 and support the activities of the BNA. Some of the activities include publishing this newsletter, maintaining the Rose Garden on Browncroft Blvd., holding general membership meetings, and hosting the bi-annual neighborhood garage sale, annual holiday party, and summer picnic.

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, notate that on the membership envelope, or contact me.

Robert Phelps 865-4064



Crime Alert

by Robert Guenther,
Crime Chairperson

As many of you know, the Browncroft area has sustained an alarming increase of home burglaries since late August. This pattern has been shared with the Brighton area to the south and other isolated areas of the County. Entry points have been through unlocked rear windows, or entry has been gained by minimal force. The area south of Browncroft and east of Winton experienced 7 overnight and 1 daytime burglaries between August 22nd and September 8th. Others occurred on September 29th and October 4th. No suspect information was observed on any of these occurrences. An unknown suspect has been captured by a camera at a Westside ATM using a stolen card at 5:30 am. Property taken has been purses, wallets, cash and small electronic devices located usually in the kitchen; in many cases observable through the window.

Suggested prevention includes locking your door and closing and locking your windows. Call 911 if you hear or see anything suspicious. The RPD has stepped up patrols and are working with the Brighton Police Department. Flyers have been distributed on some BNA streets.

Each month on the 2nd Thursday, RPD and the Sector 8 Net Office hold a Police Citizens Interaction Committee

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Library Corner

Become the Winton Branch Library Reader of the Month. Children in grades K-6 who have read at least one book are eligible to enter.



Get a head start on the holidays. Visit the library for books and magazines on crafts, cooking and decorating.

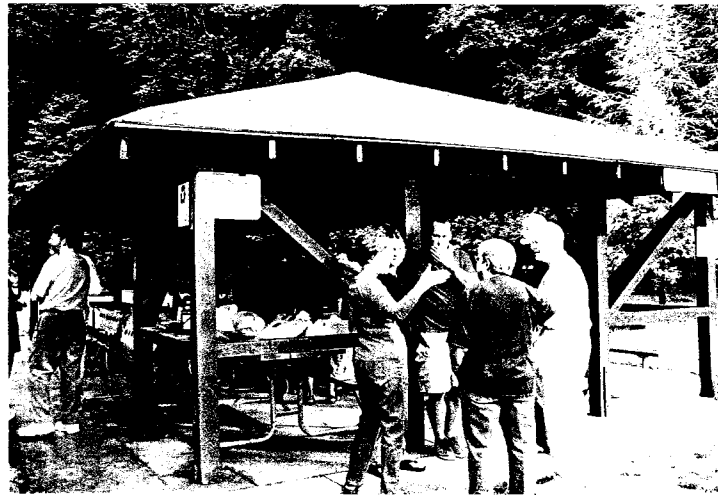
Many thanks to Kellie and Robert Reed for their generous donation of a couch for the Children's Room.

Picnic Pics

The BNA picnic, held on a beautiful evening in August in Ellison Park provided a lovely time to mingle with neighbors old and new.



Sophy and Leah



Jeremy and Victor



*Save this date -
The BNA Winter Gathering
will be
January 20th
at Glendoveers*



Crime Alert

Continued from Page 3

(PCIC) meeting that is open to the public. It is held at 6:30 pm at St. John the Evangelist Church on Humboldt Street. Eastside Commander/Captain, Platoon and NET Lieutenants, and Crime Prevention Officers are present to report on criminal activity, gather neighborhood information, concerns and to answer neighborhood questions.

Another opportunity is to join the PAC-TAC group for this area operating out of the NET Sector 8 Office at 212 Webster Avenue. If interested, contact Bob Genthner, BNA Crime Prevention Chairman at 482-2441.

BNA Officers

President - Henry Viau
Vice President - Karlyn Alvarado
Treasurer - Rob Phelps
Secretary - Jessica Pritchard

BNA District Reps

Elm District - Chris Gaudieri
Corwin District - Holly Petsos
Croydon District - Barb Duffy

BNA Committee Chairs

Beautification - Cassy Petsos
Crime - Robert Genthner
Hospitality - Needed
Membership - Rob Phelps
Newsletter - Needed
Cassy Petsos, Interim Editor
Zoning - Holly Petsos

Get Your Newsletter On-line!

Anyone wishing to receive an email notification with a link whenever a BNA newsletter is out, or to receive urgent information and neighborhood bulletins may provide your email address to our webmaster, bob14610@aol.com.

We are going to be redesigning the BNA website, and it will include a PDF version of the current newsletter. If it is taking your street rep too long to get your newsletter delivered, you can access it immediately on line instead. The hardcopy newsletter will still be delivered. But you will have been advised of upcoming meeting dates and events on the date of publishing.

Also, please communicate your ideas for website content, submit newsletter editorials or articles, or share important information you feel your neighbors should be made aware of.