



# Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973-VOLUME #145

P.O. Box 10127 Rochester New York 14610

October 2006

BNA is hosting  
A  
**"Fireside Chat"**  
**with Mayor Duffy**

**Wednesday**  
**October 25, 2006**  
**at 7:00p.m.**  
at the  
**Browncroft Baptist Church**  
**420 N. Winton Road**  
(next to Red Apple/Kwik Fill).

The Mayor is coming to Browncroft to answer questions  
and discuss city issues of importance to our residents

This is a rare opportunity. Robert Duffy has spoken at  
Browncroft meetings in the past, but now he will bring his  
authority and perspective as our Mayor.

Refreshments will be served

## President's Message

From Dede Ranger

Dear Neighbors,

Welcome back from the summer hiatus. Our annual membership drive is being initiated with this newsletter. Please show your support of BNA by sending in your membership dues.

The BNA would also like to welcome Sharon Delly as the newly appointed principal at #46 school and we look forward to her leadership.

If we missed you at our annual picnic, we have several upcoming events for you to partake in this year, the first of which is our meeting on October 25th featuring Mayor Duffy as our honored guest. He will address issues and answer questions pertinent to you and our neighborhood as a whole. We hope to have a great turnout, so please make a note of it on your calendar.

Speaking of the picnic, Holly Petsos and Rob Phelps did a superb job coordinating this event. Henry Viau took the pressure off of me by manning the grill with much expertise. Over 75 people attended the BNA Family Picnic which was blessed with great company,

continued on page 6

### Inside...

Membership Drive.....	Page 2
North Winton Village News.....	2
History Page - The Rose Garden..	3
Streetlights.....	4
#46 School Principle.....	4
Lead Paint Report.....	5
Calendar of Events.....	6

## BNA Membership Drive Is On

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. If you can, please consider donating an additional amount toward the Neighborhood fund.

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.

As in years' past, 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 the newsletter, 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.

Robert Phelps  
(Membership Drive Chair)  
234-0160 (BNA voicemail)  
rphelps@frontiernet.net

### Volunteers Needed for:

Newsletter Chairperson  
Hospitality Chairperson  
Browncroft Rose Garden Chairperson and workers  
History Committee, marker restoration and landscape preservation  
Street Light Issue  
Call 234-0160 and leave a message.

## News from North Winton Village

Marilyn Schutte

North Winton Village would like to thank the many neighbors and businesses who have so willingly volunteered their time, money and energy to continue our efforts to beautify our neighborhood, especially our main streets.

We have 92 planters, 12 gardens, gardens at our light poles and 13 hanging baskets. It does take an army to keep the projects going. Plus there is constant maintenance to the entrance signs, benches, trash cans, banners, and the gazebo and flag at the park at Winton and Merchants Road. Twenty-nine University of Rochester students helped weed seven of our gardens on September 2nd.

North Winton has been working with our city engineers to enhance the Atlantic Avenue construction project. Thanks to our State Representative, Joe Morelle, we are happy that we have an extra \$50,000 to add bricks to the intersections, walkways at the library, the recreation center and at Culver Road, plus some further design work at certain focal points. Also we will have gardens at certain locations.

Rep. Morelle also has awarded NWV \$7,000 toward a continuation of our tear drop lights for Winton Road from Elm Drive to Corwin Road and on East Main Street from Winton Road to Woodstock Road.

State Senator Joe Roback was able to help NWV get a wrought iron style fence at East High School with an additional \$35,000, which also enabled the addition of brick posts behind our NWV mini-park at the northeast corner of Atlantic and Culver.

The ES&L building will soon be completed. NWV worked with ES&L and the City of Rochester to have a design compatible with our neighborhood early twentieth century buildings.

The City of Rochester's Community Development Department granted \$2,500 dollars to NWV to hold a charette to design a linear park from East Main to Mayfield Street. The design will be



**North Winton Village** was founded in 1995 to address issues of concern on the commercial thoroughfares serving our neighborhood, specifically Winton Road.

It was incorporated in 1996 and has extended its influence to East Main Street, Humboldt Street, and Merchants Road westwardly to Culver Road, working diligently to prevent the spread of urban blight and crime into these corridors.

It achieves success using beautification projects, working with the Rochester Police Department on crime prevention initiatives, fostering esthetically enhanced capital improvements, and monitoring zoning matters to maintain a balance between commercial and residential uses.

### Officers/Contacts:

Marilyn Schutte (585) 461-6324 (work),  
482-2898 (home)  
Susan Messerschmidt (585) 461-5400  
Mary Coffey (585) 482-1382  
Mary Steeves (585) 482-4363  
Bill Seremetis (585) 482-3640  
John Coraggioso (585) 288-4570  
Joseph LaDelfa (585) 232-5400  
Tom Green (585) 288-7665

displayed at the Winton Road library. Also, NWV was awarded \$2,500 to have an architectural rendering of early 1900's buildings to show a streetscape with the original neighborhood commercial structures. Soon students from Cornell University will be helping further to show

Continued on page 5

# Browncroft Rose Garden

HISTORY  
PAGE

Located at the intersection of Browncroft Boulevard and Merchants Road, the Browncroft Rose Garden is a city park that is highly visible to residents in their daily errands and to suburban commuters coming into the City to work or do business. As such, it acts as a front yard for our neighborhood and a beautified gateway for the City of Rochester. It is also an important part of the Browncroft Historic District.

The definition of the word boulevard is a landscaped thoroughfare or a street that has a park associated with it. It was, therefore, fitting of Brown Brothers Realty to get the street name changed from Atlantic Avenue to Browncroft Boulevard from Winton Road east when they began the redevelopment of the Brown Brothers Nursery into the Browncroft Subdivision.

**History of the Browncroft Rose Garden:** The site of the park was the barnyard of the John Charlton nursery. The Charlton farm house is located at 116 Browncroft Boulevard, and the barn is now (re)located behind the home at 89 Merchants Road. The heirs of John Charlton donated the first 75 feet west of the Merchants Road Intersection to the City of Rochester in 1919. It was dedicated as a park on October 26, 1920. Subsequently, the City of Rochester in 1923 purchased for six thousand dollars another 310 feet to the west to enlarge the triangular park to what it is today.

In the 1930s residents of the neighborhood took up a collection and purchased rose bushes from the Brown Brothers Nursery, which by that time was located in Penfield. In its original landscape plan there were eight rectangular rose beds containing 4 rows of bushes each, and approximately 14 semicircular beds at the widest part of the park and at the apex of the triangle. These had from two to four rows of bushes each. In summary, from the 1930s to the 1960s there must have been well over a thousand rose bushes.

The Rose Society helped maintain the gardens until the 1960s, at which time a flurry of federal beautification grants,

from programs inspired by former first lady, "Lady Bird" Johnson, pumped funds into the park. According to residents sharing oral history from that era, a fountain was planned, as well as an irrigation system. The City backed away from installing a fountain, and in its already bricked plaza at the wide interior of the park, erected, a sun dial instead. By the early seventies the sundial was broken and the bricks in the plaza were crumbling. The rose bushes also were neglected as the rosarians with the Rose Society became aged and stopped their volunteer work.

Enter in 1972 the newly formed Browncroft Neighborhood Association Beautification Committee, organized to address the derelict appearance of the rose beds and the slacked lawn maintenance by the City.

Working with the president of the Rose Society for technical support and with the City Parks supervisor of the east side, neighborhood volunteers started pruning and weeding the rose bed, installed a 17 foot diameter circular annual bed, and ensured that the City returned to a regular mowing program. By this time many of the beds were expired. A full restoration program was considered an impractical goal for volunteers as rose culture is a high maintenance activity. Instead, the City's in-house landscape architect was asked to make a plan for alternative flowering materials, and the 12 crab apple trees lining the border of the park -- six on the Merchants Road side and six on the Browncroft side -- and a semi-circle of lilacs were planted in the area of the missing sundial. This planting expired eventually, and was replanted in the early 1990's as a new lilac memorial garden by Mary Ann Evans of Croydon Road, still a Browncroft Rose Garden volunteer.

**The Browncroft Rose Garden Today:** The Browncroft Beautification Committee in the 1970s and 1980s was comprised of approximately 20 volunteers that worked in three teams with one team going out every two weeks throughout the summer, and the whole

committee pitching in for Spring Clean-up, annual bed planting, and fall cleanup. Its numbers have dwindled to nine volunteers meeting occasionally in groups of two, three, or four. These still dedicated workers are Mary Ann Evans (Croydon Road), Doug Anderson and Rosemarie Hatman (Dorchester Road), Laura Viau (Elm Drive), Kathy Flynn and Margaret Richter (Quentin Road and original committee members), Robert Kern (Windemere Road), and Cassy Petsos (Browncroft Boulevard and original committee organizer).

The scarcity of volunteers in recent years has made it a challenge to maintain the Browncroft Rose Garden in the manner it deserves as, not only a city landmark garden, but as a city gateway greenspace, and as a symbol of our neighborhood's pride of place. As Cassy Petsos is retiring from her position as Beautification Chairperson, The Browncroft Neighborhood Association is requesting volunteers to take over working with the City in the stewardship of the gardens. The City of Rochester Department of Environmental Services (formerly the Department of Parks, Recreation and Human Services) remains responsible for maintaining the grass and trees. It is hoped that our newer and younger generation of residents will bring fresh energy and ideas for the rehabilitation and preservation of this important space.

**Volunteers needed for Fall Pruning and Clean-up in the Browncroft Rose Garden, Saturday, October 28th at 9:30 a.m.** Rain date is November 4th, same time.

Bring pruners, loppers, rakes, weeders. Wearing protective work gloves and waterproof footwear is recommended.

## From The New Principal of #46 School To Browncroft:

Dear Browncroft Community Members,

My name is Sharon Delly and it is with great enthusiasm that I join the Browncroft Community as the newly appointed Principal at School 46. I served as acting principal from April through June.

I have already met many of you as parents and visitors to our school. I also attended a Browncroft Neighborhood Association meeting in the spring at which I met many neighborhood residents. It is my hope that we can work together to establish a partnership that will benefit both our students and the community.

We are always trying to enlist volunteers to share their expertise and knowledge with our students through presentations, reading partnerships, and student tutoring. We are always in need of school supplies, hats, scarves and gloves for the cold weather (there must be some knitters out there), funding for field trips and we are giving some thought to a community garden on campus.

School 46 is vital to the Browncroft community and our school community to going to work diligently to uphold the highest of expectations for our students in our efforts to develop life long learners and model citizens.

Please feel free to visit our school and get a first hand look at the daily happenings in our learning environment. Feel free to contact me if you have questions, concerns, or would like to volunteer in some capacity. You are always welcome.

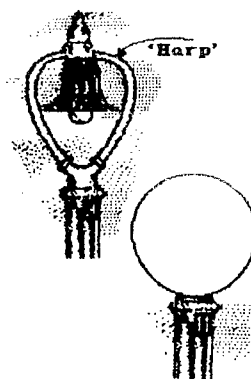
Sincerely,  
Sharon Delly  
Principal



## Streetlights

Residents of Browncroft who have been here for more than 20 years may well remember the controversy when the City of Rochester took over the RG&E owned residential streetlights, removed them and installed their new colonial style high pressure sodium fiberglass streetlights city wide — with the exception of Browncroft (not including the Elm district of the BNA boundaries), the Cobbs Hill / Nunda Boulevard streets, Rundel Park and Arnold Park. These neighborhoods fought to keep the period concrete poles with either round globe or harp shaped luminaires.

In 1984-85 the City agreed to leave the old circuit in place in Browncroft, which has three different styles of streetlights and is owned and maintained by RG&E, until they could develop a reproduction new system using concrete fluted poles and globe luminaires with a white light lamp inside. The globe style was chosen by conducting a survey of all households affected by the proposed streetlight district. More than 20 years have passed and to our knowledge no work has been done to fabricate such a system for Browncroft, Cobbs Hill or Arnold Park. Rundel Park residents



voted to have an "off the shelf" period looking streetlight installed when their street reconstruction projection included removal of the RG&E poles in the late 1990's.

The BNA streetlight committee has had intermittent meetings behind the scenes with the City of Rochester, RG&E and a Brighton

group that is also wishing to preserve their concrete system. However, because of the cost of a reproduction system the City has held off in recent years, with the thought that Browncroft's listing on the National Register of Historic Places might help defray the cost if there would be historic preservation grant money.

A letter was sent from BNA to Mayor Duffy in August to bring the new administration up to date with this issue and to request renewed communications with the hope of resolution.

The streets affected are Browncroft Boulevard, Newcastle Road, Corwin Road, Windemere Road, Gramercy Park, Ramsey Park, Dorchester Road, Croydon Road, Yarmouth Road, and Beresford Road. Anyone who is residing on these streets and who wishes to work on the newly formed Streetlight Committee, please contact Cassy Petsos at 288-0955 and leave a clear message.



## Winton Branch Library Corner

**Winton Branch Library's Fall Festival** is Saturday, October 14 from 1 PM to 3 PM. There will be a performance by Accordion Pat along with prizes and refreshments.

**Storytime** begins the week of October 16. Contact the library at 428-8204 for details.

The **Winton Adult Reading Group** will discuss *Cage of Stars* by Jacqueline Mitchard on Monday, November 6, 7 PM – 8:45 PM. Copies of the book are available for check out – ask at the circulation desk. All are invited to attend for a lively discussion.

## Get the Lead Out

On September 20th Len Merritt, Lead Paint Program Coordinator with the City of Rochester NET Bureau gave a comprehensive overview to the Board of Directors regarding the recently passed City ordinance on lead-based paint poisoning prevention.

The City of Rochester is in the forefront nationally with this very comprehensive addition to the City of Rochester Charter, Chapter 90 Article III, of the Property Code adopted July 1, 2006.

The ordinance provides that rental properties built before 1978, before being issued a certificate of occupancy, must be inspected for lead paint hazards, regardless of whether children currently reside there. Len Merritt's team of four Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certified inspectors carry out these inspections.

The ordinance addresses the interior and exterior surfaces on rental properties, and the exterior of owner occupied properties. Hazardous lead paint violation occurs if there is 2 square feet accumulation of deteriorated paint in an interior environment or 20 square feet of exterior painted surface and 3 square feet of bare soil on a property upon which a likely lead painted structure sits. The square footage does not need to be contiguous, but merely an aggregate of deteriorated or contaminated surfaces added together.

The ordinance also addresses "safe work practices" that contractors and home owners working with lead paint structures must comply with. The City offers courses for contractors and home owners to educate them in the proper handling of surfaces when painting and remodeling. The disturbance of any painted surface creates a potentially hazardous condition, as microscopic lead dust can be released into the air and paint chips fall to the ground. Upon attending these courses, contractors are certified and can then work on lead paint surfaces.

If a City inspector observes owners or contractors working without posting

## Boy Scout Troup #37 Annual Coupon Books Now ON Sale

Boy Scout Troop 37, first chartered in 1947 by St. John the Evangelist Church, has begun its annual fund-raising event selling its *Value Coupon Books* in the neighborhood. The books are \$5.00 each and provide hundreds of dollars in savings on goods and services provided by a variety of merchants and professionals in the Browncroft and Winton-Culver areas. Scouts will be selling the books door-to-door within the next month. Please support the boys when they knock on your door. The Troop also invites all boys between the ages of 11 and 18 to join the fun, camaraderie and outdoor activities provided by the Troop. For more information on any of the Troop's activities, contact Scoutmaster Frank Fields at 585-734-3887.

hazardous lead paint signs on the property and/or not using safe practices, or if the contractor does not have a certificate of attending the safe practices class, the inspector can issue a stop work order.

Browncroft is not in one of the target areas Mr. Merritt's team is currently focused on for concentrated inspection and enforcement, nor does Browncroft have rental properties that would be effected by the interior factors. However, of particular importance to our residents are the exterior code violations, including the bare soil factors, and the contractor safe work practices, which effect not only the homeowner, but their neighbors' safety, as well.

The City's purpose in the enforcement of hazardous lead violations is not punitive, but rather it is to foster compliance and effective lead poisoning abatement.

The City has many pamphlets available, as well as a comprehensive website (<http://lead.cityofrochester.gov>), to inform owner/occupants, as well as landlords and contractors, on every element of this ordinance, including available grants to assist qualifying property owners to "Get the Lead Out" for the safety of our children.

*To get more information on lead poisoning, its effects, and ways to test and fix lead paint in your home call 211 or visit [www.leadSAFEby2010.org](http://www.leadSAFEby2010.org)*

### NORTH WINTON VILLAGE continued from page 2

a more comprehensive plan.

Every Thursday at noon, NWV meets with the Rochester City Police at Club Soda on East Main Street to walk the street and discuss plans regarding public safety and neighborhood code violations.

Recently, there have been incidents of tire slashing on Arbordale Avenue and Dorchester Road. NWV delivered a notice for the Police Department informing residents of this criminal activity and what to do to report suspicious persons in the neighborhood.

St. John's Church on Humboldt Street also hosted a crime meeting in which NWV participated. Present was the US Attorney General, Terrance Flynn, Mike Green and Paul Irving from the Monroe County District Attorney's Office, Jim Sheppard from the Rochester Police and representation from the Sheriffs Dept. for the Zero Tolerance For Crime Coalition.

North Winton Village has had a philosophy of "zero tolerance for crime" from the beginning, and it has worked. Neighbors and police work hand in hand to keep the NWV area drug and crime free.

Other neighborhood leaders asked NWV to organize an anti-crime coalition city-wide and NWV answered the call. Hopefully, it will grow. If anyone is interested please call one of the NWV contacts. (See Page 2.)



# BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

## OFFICERS 2006-07

President—Dede Ranger  
Vice President—Cassy Petsos  
Treasurer—Rob Phelps  
Secretary—Rick Alvarado

## District Representatives

Corwin District—Holly Petsos  
Croydon District—TBD  
Elm District—Chris Gaudieri

## BNA Voice-mail Phone Contact Number: 234-0160

For any inquires to the organization officers or committees,  
please feel free to utilize this number.

## BNA WEBSITE

<http://members.aol.com/browncroft/>  
(look for our new website still in development)

## COMMITTEES:

Beautification—Chairperson: Cassy Petsos  
Communication—Chairperson: TBD  
History—Chairperson: Shari Bloemendaal  
Hospitality—Chairperson: TBD  
Membership—Chairperson: Rob Phelps  
Neighborhood Watch—Chairperson: Bob Genthner  
Zoning—Chairperson: Holly Petsos

## BROWNCROFT CRIER NEWSLETTER

CRIER Editor: Cassy Petsos (Interim Editor)  
USPO Mail: P.O. Box 10127, Rochester, New York 14610

## Your Street Representative or Newsletter Deliverer



Picnic Fun at Ellison Park

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

great food and great weather.

While thanks are going around, I would also like to acknowledge Barb Duffy for her many years of service as our Croydon District Representative and to Anne Chew for filling the position.

If you would like to receive updates from BNA via email you can subscribe to [bna-announce@listxcski.com](mailto:bna-announce@listxcski.com) - thanks to our new Technology Chairmen, Vicki Robinson and Paul Tomblin.

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday October 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Winton Road Library. On the agenda is Rick Hannon, who will present information about the proposed structural changes to #46 school.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

## SAVE THE DATE

**October 25** – General Membership meeting with Mayor Duffy – Brown Croft Baptist Church.

**October 28** - Fall Clean-up in the Rose Garden

**2007**

**January 19** – BNA Winter Gathering at Glenoveer's

**May 5,6** – BNA Bi-Annual Area Wide Garage Sale