

Today we are celebrating OUR 50 years of Browncroft Neighborhood Unity.

1973 - How time flies! It seems like only yesterday. 18,250 days, 692 households, a community of all volunteers dedicated to the NEIGHBORHOOD!!

There are 209 issues of the Browncroft Newsletter that chronicle our travels since the time in 1973 that the neighbors around Browncroft and Merchants when faced by the County designating Browncroft Blvd and Merchants Road as main Schedule C Truck Routes “in and out” of the City. They were shocked that such an intrusion to their beautiful city neighborhood with its tree canopied street was put upon them. The trucks started to roll as early as 5 am. Houses shook! Diesel fumes filled the air! Something had to be done!

The neighbors fought, portioned, and spoke! They won with a 3-ton weight restriction applied and the designation removed. Road signs went up and weight scales enforced the rules. This proved to the neighbors that UNITY was the true answer to preserving the character of the neighborhood. By the mid of 1974 The **Browncroft Merchants Neighborhood Association** was born!

On June 21, 1974 the first By-laws of the Browncroft Merchants Neighborhood Association were approved by the gathered neighbors and stated: “Article 1 PURPOSE: to take actions that are legal and appropriate for maintaining the quality of living in and around the area bounded by Winton Road, Elmcroft Road, Fairhaven Road and Dorchester Road.” However on September 11, 1974 – 3 months later, it was amended to add Newcastle, Croydon, Yarmouth, and Beresford up to Blossom Road.

They formed a Board of 17 individual Street Representatives with 4 Officers elected each year. The neighborhood had a full voice in their issues and concerns. The Board and a smaller Executive Committee met in alternating months since 1974 - all volunteered time!

The presence of our Neighborhood School #46 was a vital focal point in the early years for the community volunteerism through its commitment to the students, parents and teachers. A Recreation Committee was established in 1975; summer programs, play ground, issues were on the table. Also potential a Ice Skating Rink and swim pool were being discussed for #46. They submitted the Capital Improvement request – however they were denied '76).

The Committees do the real work, both long and short term, as long as the neighbors are willing to participate. Without volunteers, committees and events fail. That’s why committees such as Neighborhood watch (Crime Prevention), Beautification, Newsletter, Zoning, Hospitality, School #46 interface, Dog Control, History, Communication (Website/Social Media), etc. succeeded in Browncroft.

In May 1978, a new formatted Constitution and Bylaws were adopted by the membership. The BMNA name was shortened to just the Browncroft Neighborhood Association in order to eliminate any confusion that they were a Merchant business organization. One other minor change revision occurred in 1985.

And what have the neighbors accomplished together since that first year – a LOT -. Here is a pretty good look at the early years of the neighborhood. The **dedication, evolvment, initiates and new traditions:**

1970's

- Truck Traffic restriction enforcement. April – October 1974 -- 263 overweight tickets at \$25 and 2 driver points '74
- Revival/restoration/beautification of the Rose Garden City Park at Browncroft and Merchants. '74
- Crime Prevention Committee formed; 67 crimes in 1974 in area '74-present.
- Neighborhood general and topical meetings - several times a year '74 – present
- BMNA was directly aligned with NEAD, Inc., (North East Area Development, a coalition of neighborhood groups). NEAD board membership 1974- 1994
- Interaction, PR w/ Winton Library events. '74- present
- Dog Control Committee Leash laws property damage, barking, Animal Control Center '75-'80
- Candidates Nights – local elections. '75--'85, '89, '91 and continuing
- New revised Zoning Ordinance review and input discussions with neighbors and City '75
- Co-host Community School Nights w/ PTA; 5 Wednesdays Jan/Feb at #46; 38 Hobby/Craft/skills classes '76-78
- Bicentennial Celebration July 4th; Children's Parade; on neighborhood streets. (Other years also). '76
- Beautification Tree planting Winton Road '77
- Kid Power household jobs, baby-sitter, plant watcher, snow removal, etc.'77-'85
- Opposed sale of property next to Winfield Grill and special permit for parking in R-1 '77
- Sewer replacement work Dorchester and Windemere Roads discussions with Pure Waters. '77
- Monroe County Neighborhood Watch program, participation by street, meetings. '78-96
- Monroe County Parks Band Concert at #46 fields. '78-79 (300 not enough for the band to continue here)
- Annual Holiday Buffet/ Winter Gathering '78 Valley Echo (\$6) – yearly to present
- Traffic Committee takes up parking, motorcycles issues on neighborhood streets. '78
- BNA tackles “Urban Blight” spruce up vacant properties and Rec. Dept to mow at Triangle '78
- Beautification and City Rec. Dept partner in maintenance of the Rose Garden Park grounds '78
- Planting of flowers at the Triangle (Elm/Merchants) - once City maintains the grounds. '78
- Submitted 7 area Capital Improvement requests to the city/county. '78 (all rejected by '80)
- Beautification Committee begins Winton Road Flower planting project along Winton Road '78
- Zoning Committee challenges/supports numerous yearly requests to use variances and special permits with in R1 zones. '78-present
- BNA/PTA School Task Force to study the City's school building utilization plans –School #46 may close? '79

- Transit service bus route changes. Delete Dorchester – add Newcastle. Newcastle saw a bus every 5 min during rush hour- Route removed to 590 Blossom cross to Browncroft '79-80
- City Living Fair - BNA booth at Midtown Plaza '79 –'80

1980's

- BNA representatives on several city neighborhood coalitions pertinent to the Browncroft community. '80-'20
- Browncroft local Garden tour 9 gardens '80, 10 gardens '90
- BNA “Garden Day” at the Rose Garden '80
- EDMAC proposed their plant at Gaslight/Blossom (old Gas Tank area): concerns of Traffic, property values, pollution increase cars '80
- EDMAC Brighton approved site plans – neighbors weighted legal plans – EDMAC withdrew plans. '81
- Traffic Committee is now renames to “Committee on Engineering & Environment Services”'80
- Winton Library room, Churches, #46 for neighborhood general meetings and speaker events. '80 – '00
- Browncroft Food Co-op '81 – '95.
- Browncroft Area wide Garage Sale – Odd years – 175-225 sales. '81, '84, '87, '89 - present (#22)
- BNA Annual Family picnic Ellison Park Summer picnics '81-85, and many years after.
- The Garage Sale of 1989 saw 10” of SNOW on Sunday and 200 sales! '89
- Dedication #46 School Playground upgrades BNA with PTA committee '83
- PAC-TAC (Police And Citizens -Together Against Crime) patrolling all of Browncroft. Now is part of Crime Prevention Committee. Initially 60 individual neighbors participated in PACTAC with scheduling and patrols. (i.e. July-Dec '83: 36 crimes on 10 streets) '83-'08 (25 yrs over 125 individuals)
- BNA P.O. Box 10127 initiated '83
- Member of “Against Crime Together” (ACT) and Browncroft street Phone Chains '83
- Construction of house at Browncroft / Newcastle neighbor contested, Browncroft Deed Covenants upheld '83
- Browncroft Historic Street Marker Committee with Beautification to restore corner markers '83.
- Browncroft Historical Committee formed in '83
- BNA History Project: City Sesquicentennial (150 yrs) Browncroft History booklet published for sale '84.
- History Committee's 3 day display during City's 150th History Week celebration at Midtown Plaza. '84
- Original Browncroft Reality subdivision prospectus and reproduced on 29”x23” poster available. '84
- Street Light Moderation stated by City. Question New/Old style lamps? BNA Committee started. '84 Globe top and new circuit, petition, Special assessment District needed. '85. In 1989, it was required that a neighborhood survey vote on 4 possible lightning options was conducted by the committee. '89

- Library formal, narrated slide presentation of Browncroft History “A Beautiful Section of a Beautiful City” and many follow up shows to multiple groups through the years. ’84-present
- Strawberry Social Rose Garden (over 200 Roses) ‘85
- BNA “Crime Watch” Newsletter published ‘86
- “Sunday In The Park” Rose bloom celebration picnic with The Baroque Chamber Trio ‘86
- Designating the Browncroft Rose Garden Park with new signage. ‘86
- BNA paid membership passes 500. ‘86
- Weekly shared community meetings w/ SE NET Service Center: RPD, Zoning, code enforcements, City depart. ‘87
- CRIER Newsletter goes to computer and donated copier production ’87
- Transcribed and published pertinent RPD Crime Logs from Goodman Section PAC-TAC. ‘88-‘98
- BNA Membership hits 525. Included are 350 NEAD memberships. ‘89
- BNA “Picnic in the Park”, attended by 175 people, hosted the “Smugtown Stompers”, a local Dixieland band on Father’s Day and the rededication ceremony of the Browncroft Rose Garden. Mayor Ryan presided at the ceremony. ‘89

1990’s

- Beatification Committee to focus, by the neighborhood collectively, on our tree islands and original landscaping planted when the subdivision was created. ‘90
- Merchants Road, Elm and Winton Road intersection realignment project hearings for 1991. ’90
- Participant in Neighbors Building Neighborhoods (NBN) planning with City. Member group of Sector 8 City Planning. ‘90’s
- Landmark House Tour comes to Browncroft 12 houses ‘91
- Holiday Light Contest returns in BNA first since the 1920’s, ‘91
- BNA working with the City on the Neighborhood Planning Process which targets neighbor concerns ‘91
- Beautification Committee wins an award from The Federation of Garden Clubs for civic consistent efforts to improve and maintain the Browncroft Rose Garden. ‘91
- ICE STORM resulted in devastating damage and loss to impressive line of mature maples dense canopy. Tree Committee formed to survey condition of all trees, professional landscaping plan, implement with whole sale purchase, ‘91
- History Committee to pursue plan to document significant houses through photographing original architectural detailing. ‘92
- History Committee conducted walking tour of Browncroft as part of Rochester Museum: Hidden Rochester. ‘92
- New #46 playground committee with PTA, School Base Planning Team from #46 targeted for 1994. ‘92
- Official Browncroft T-Shirts go on sale. ‘93
- BNA Ski Party at Ski Valley ‘93
- Browncroft Progressive Dinner. ’93-’95
- BNA/Fairhaven/#46 dealing with consistent Rowdiness at #46 after dark, ‘94
- City Rec. responds to 1993 #46 Summer Program problems with promise of a more organized Summer Recreation Center and more adequate programming. ‘94

- BNA Family 'Sock Hop' /membership drive at School #46 Gym;'92,'94
- RPD Crime Control Log compiled by the Crime Committee for 4th Quarter 1993 showed 38 events. '94
- BNA/NEAD conducts Safety Presentation with RPD Highland Section at School #46. '94
- Beautification's Tree Committee continues with an aggressive tree replanting with neighbors and the City. '94
- BNA expresses its outrage to proposed #46 School budget cuts proposed by the City School District.'94
- BNA successfully opposed the rezoning of 6 properties on the west side of Winton before the City Planning Commission from R1 Single Family to R1 w/ Office Overlay. '94
- School #46 new playgrounds is \$10,000 short from complete funding. Successful Fund raising effort by neighbors and BNA '94
- Neighbors Building Neighborhoods (NBN) is planning for the next 5 years in all areas of city life. Challenging to take charge in improving our neighborhoods. Browncroft is one of six neighborhoods in Sector 8. '95
- Neighborhood murder in November 1994 led to "Neighborhood Safety - Next Steps" meeting at #46 with all agencies and Crime Prevention Committee on deck. It was tended by 300 people. '95
- "Concert On The Lawn" John Capone & his Orchestra at School #46 with City Recreation Dept. cooperation with BNA '95
- BNA CRIER goes on line with its own e-mail address BNA Crier@aol.com. '95
- Windemere Road sets up Phone Alert Tree. '95
- Crime Watch Report from RPD Crime Logs shows 31 crimes from 5/1 to 10/11/95 in Browncroft. '95
- North Winton Village Neighborhood Association formed. '96
- More to come

2000's

- Browncroft Historic District officially listed on the New York State National Register of Historic Places '03
- Browncroft Historic District officially listed on the Department of Interior's National Register of Historic Places. '04
- BNA's Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) Committee options' for "Aging In Place" '00
- Newsletter available on Browncroft Website. '06
- BNA Announce direct email notification of BNA announcements and notifications (Anyone). '06
- More to come

2010's

- Initiation of "Home for a Lifetime" program in Browncroft by NORRC Committee and website page. '10
- "Browncroft and Vicinity History Display Day", History's Committee collection at the Library Meeting Room followed by a guided walking tour of historic Browncroft. A table

top media presentation of the History Slide Show “Browncroft: A Beautiful Section of a Beautiful City will be continuously running. ‘10

- Home for a Lifetime Committee launch of transportation service for Browncroft partnering with Lifespan’s “Give A Lift”. ‘10
- “Be On Your Way with BNA” update utilizing Browncroft volunteering drivers.’11
- New BNA Street Signs project initiated ‘12
- City/State restoration project at School#46; preserving historic character especially the windows. ‘12
- Streetlight Moderation Project started in 1983 is installed along with ADA compliance access ramps at intersections. ’14-’15
- More to come

2020’s

- More to come