



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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P.O. Box 10127, Rochester, New York 14610
<http://browncroftna.org>

January 2013

BNA Executive Committee

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Croydon

Mary Jane Tasciotti

BNA Voicemail:

270-0890

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Browncroft Neighborhood Association's
(35th Annual)

Winter Gathering

Friday, January 18, 2013

At

Glendoveers

2328 Old Browncroft Road

6:00pm Social Hour (Cash Bar) with hors d'oeuvres

7:00pm Buffet Dinner: Chef Carved Beef, Oven Baked
Chicken, Pasta with Marinara and Alfredo Sauce, Oven
Roasted Potatoes, Fresh Vegetable Medley, Rolls, and
Salad. Ice Cream Sundae Bar for Dessert, Coffee/Soda.

8:15pm Brief announcements and short program.

Door Prizes by local merchants.

Tickets are \$22 per individual, \$42 per couple.

Please RSVP by January 11th

Include the number of people, your name, address,
and phone number.

BNA voicemail is 270-0890

BNA email is inquiries@browncroftna.org

Please send your payment by Tuesday,

January 15, 2013 to: Browncroft Neighborhood Association's
Winter Gathering, PO Box 10127, Rochester, NY 14610

(Checks should be made out to Browncroft Neighborhood Association)

We Had Visitors to See Our Holiday Lights

Cynthia Howk of the Landmark Society informs us that she conducted a tour of 77 people through Browncroft to view the holiday lights on Saturday, December 15th.

"For many it was their first visit to Browncroft. Were they ever surprised

by the beautiful houses." said Cynthia. "Always rewarding to show off a terrific area of the city. A good number of walkers couldn't believe we were in a city neighborhood."

Like we always say -- we have the best of urban/suburban living.

SUPPORT PILOT FOR AGING IN PLACE -

A partnership between Jewish Family Services and The Community Place of Greater Rochester

Aging in place means having the support you need to continue to enjoy life in your own home. It might be the companionship of a friendly visitor or the comfort of a home cooked meal.

In response to the Browncroft for A Lifetime Survey card enclosed with the last Crier, a few requests were made by neighbors for assistance and a number of neighbors volunteered to be of help.

So that the needs of both service recipients and volunteers are well met we have worked with Jewish Family Services and The Community Place of Greater Rochester to pilot a support process -- one that is professional, confidential and safe.

The process begins with the return of the Survey Card and is followed by a call from the Browncroft Home For A Lifetime coordinator, Ann D. Weintraub, to confirm interest in having service or being a volunteer. For those interested in some assistance contact information will be provided to arrange an in-home conversation with a staff social worker from Jewish Family Services (JFS) regarding needs and wants.

By the way one does not need to be Jewish to utilize this service. Jewish Family Services like Catholic Family Services provides professional support to people of all backgrounds and contacts are confidential. There is no obligation to accept services. Decisions regarding help are made by you and your family and no one else! This is an exploration of an opportunity.

If after the conversation, you decide to avail yourself of a service or services these will either be provided by a vetted and trained Browncroft volunteer, or a Senior Companion from

The Community Place of Greater Rochester, or a recommended service provider--gratis or fee based.

Those choosing to provide services, e.g. companionship, meal preparation, etc. will be vetted by The Community Place of Greater Rochester, (NYS criminal check). A grant is being sought to pay for the vetting. Training for volunteers will also be provided by The Community Place of Greater Rochester. It will include information on boundary setting, confidentiality issues, communication skills, as well as how to assist visually and/or hearing impaired clients, those who have chronic health conditions as well as dementia. The staff of The Community Place of Greater Rochester will match volunteers with those requesting services and provide support/supervision. This is a wonderful learning opportunity and a great way to give to those in our Browncroft community.

The pilot will serve a limited number of those requesting services and those willing to be volunteers since both Jewish Family Services and The Community Place of Greater Rochester are offering the assistance assessment and training as a contribution to the Browncroft Neighborhood Association community.

So do send in your Survey Card and become part of our support system pilot.

The Be On Your Way Transportation Program Number is 733-4386

if you need a ride to medical appointments, grocery store, or other necessary transportation needs.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTINUES

Our 40th annual BNA Membership Drive continues and spans our June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013 fiscal year. If your Membership form is still sitting around from the last Crier, it's a good time to fill it out and send it in to our PO Box.

For the first time in 2 decades, the BNA Board has increased the annual BNA Household Membership dues from \$5 to \$10. Your returned membership and \$10 donation is a strong sign of support to BNA's 17 Street Representatives, 4 Officers, and 8 Committee Chairs who serve on the BNA Board of Directors. The Board advocates the goals and objectives of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association (BNA) on behalf of the 672 residential households of the Browncroft neighborhood.

In addition to your name, address, phone number, BNA would also appreciate having your email address. There is space provided for both with the additional option to sign up for our subscriber BNA-Announce emailing list.

BNA Announce is the best way to stay connected with BNA between newsletters and meetings. Using this e-mail list, which is not shared anywhere else on the internet or between recipients, enables BNA to provide timely news bulletins, digital newsletters, Rochester Police Department communications, and neighbors' requests to the over 392 residents that are presently subscribed (that's up 15% from last year).

Thank you to all of our members!! Now is the time to renew or join and keep the traditions alive.

By Bob Genthner
Membership Committee

HISTORIC PRESERVATION and the 46 SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

It was previously reported in the Crier that the Rochester City School District was planning, as part of their school building capital projects, to remove and replace the original wood windows of School #46, Charles Carroll, with aluminum windows designed to look like the original windows as much as possible.

The Browncroft Neighborhood in the mid-eighties, working with the 46 School Principal and PTA fended off a similar proposal and saved the architectural integrity of this beautiful academic Gothic revival building, thereby preserving its place as an important contributing structure in the future Browncroft Historic District that was subsequently listed on the state and National Registers of Historic Places in Albany and in Washington DC.

Although this time around the RCSD was attempting to respect the original proportions and design of 46 School by proposing aluminum replacements that fit the window openings in the brick facade and that mimic the number of panes, the BNA History Committee and the Landmark Society strongly believe that keeping the original wooden windows and repairing them if needed is the only way to guarantee the preservation of the architectural integrity of the facade, as well as the structural quality and durability of the windows. It is a documented fact that the wooden windows will long outlive even the highest quality aluminum ones.

The State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, who must sign off on plans for the use of state money on buildings of historic

significance, agreed and did not sign off until BNA, the Landmark Society and the RCSD came to a compromise as follows: the original wooden windows on the street facades of Newcastle Road and Dorchester Road will remain intact and be repaired where needed. The broken sash cords and weights on three windows will be replaced with a spring tension system to allow them to be opened and closed.

The wooden windows currently on the elevations facing the playgrounds at the back (east) and side (south) will be replaced with new aluminum windows that replicate as much as possible the original wooden windows. Also, the modern alu-



Nursery rhyme window pane

minum windows on the eastern wing constructed in the 1960's will be replaced with aluminum sash windows that have six over six panes, which will better conform to the older architectural style. Similarly, the modern 1960's cafeteria windows, which are partially below grade, on the Dorchester elevation will also be changed out for upgraded aluminum windows with panes to better match the original windows on this elevation. The lintels above these cafeteria windows need replacement, so part of the scope of the work will include removing and reinstalling the cast stone and some new bricks of matching color.



These plans have already gone out to bid, and the proposed bids received from the contractors will be opened on January 8th. The Rochester City School Board will vote in February to finance the project. There will be a pre-construction meeting in May, with the work to follow over the summer season.

Work that has already been completed at 46 Scholl includes new doors that look like oak, but are aluminum; new coat closets in the classrooms, flooring in the cafeteria, and new sink and hood in the kitchen. There is some dissatisfaction regarding the replacement of the original door on Dorchester (where most everyone enters to vote) in that we had requested it remain in situ as it was the only one of the original oak doors that had not undergone inappropriate modifications. We were assured that if it was removed that it would be saved on site somewhere. Currently, no one knows where it is. We will follow up on this.

The above information was provided to Cassandra Petsos of the BNA History Committee by Terry Costich and Eric Hansen of the Rochester City School District and Steven Rebolz of SWBR Architects at a meeting at 46 on December 27th. The request for proposals for the project are available for review at the RCSD building at 835 Hudson Avenue.

Cassandra Petsos

“NEXTDOOR BROWNCROFT” IS 1 YEAR OLD at 132 PLUS HOUSEHOLDS!

This October 25th marked the 1 year anniversary of the national launch of Nextdoor.com™ neighborhoods, which is an internet company based out of San Jose, California. Using this currently free web site the “Nextdoor Browncroft” neighborhood page/identity was created three days later on October 28, 2011 by Bob Genthner (Newcastle Road) and physically resides on the nextdoor.com servers along with 6,500 other neighborhoods across the country in 48 states.

“Nextdoor Browncroft” has grown to over 132 households, which is approximately 20% of the Browncroft area, with over 159 individual members in its first year. You can find more detailed information at <http://browncroftna.org/nextdoor/>. It was established solely as a social network accessible to Browncroft neighborhood residents only in order to take advantage of the Nextdoor.com™ internet service, which facilitates communication and relationships between neighbors and helps to foster a positive community spirit. It is not a neighborhood association or home owners association. It is also not the BNA web site or BNA Announce service.

Several other neighborhoods from the Rochester area have also joined Nextdoor.com with their own sites, including the North Winton Village Neighborhood Association. Because a given neighborhood page is based on a set geographic definition, which its members must reside within, it does not overlap with other Nextdoor.com neighborhoods. In the future “Nextdoor Browncroft” will be able to have limited cross-talk through a new “nearby neighborhood” feature.

The Nextdoor.com™ proprietors are continuously developing this com-

mon web site platform that facilitates neighborhood and community building by providing features related to the needs of neighborhoods such as neighbor profiles, topic posting, commenting, direct neighbor messaging, directory of neighbors, area household mapping, recommendations, crime/safety, buy/sell/free, groups (private and public), community resources, events with RSVP, photos, and other features. “All are things a neighborhood needs to socially grow together” says the Nextdoor Browncroft leader, Robert Genthner. “Our values are inclusively, collaboration, transparency, open-mindedness, and neighborliness and I thank you for your help in achieving this goal.”

To join Nextdoor Browncroft, go to nextdoor.com and enter your address. You will be re-directed to the Browncroft site on Nextdoor.com. Follow the instructions by entering your e-mail and creating a password. You will then need to be verified at your address to complete the process. This is accomplished by your request

going to Bob Genthner, Leader, for 48 hour verification. If that doesn’t happen, a default postcard from Nextdoor.com with a verification code will be sent.

Please note that the Browncroft Neighborhood Association’s web site contains a full range of public knowledge resources, topics, committees, crime reports, neighborhood history, and lots of other information pertinent to the area. You can link to it at <http://browncroftna.org>.

Nextdoor Browncroft neighborhood is not directly affiliated with the Browncroft Neighborhood Association (BNA) at this time even though it mimics its boundaries. However, its participants do cross-talk to each other thereby creating a symbiotic relationship.

Disclaimer: BNA did not create “Nextdoor Browncroft” and is not responsible for its current or future rules of privacy or management, or any agreement entered into by and between its creator and subscribers.

Ladies of Lanark Crescent Get Together



Front row: Diana Czarnacki, Jeanne Loysen, Dee Czarnacki. Back row: Sue Felice, Barbara Jones, Sandra Tickle, Judy Nanni

BROWNCROFT ROSE GARDEN FALL CLEAN-UP

On Saturday, October 27th a small but sturdy crew of four worked under drizzly skies to rough prune the rose bushes, prune the Bosnian pines, and divide and redistribute hosta plants.

They were Sharon Bloemendaal, Robert Kern, Cassy Petsos and Linda Siple, who gets a special thank you for her excellent shaping of the Bosnian pines with her saw. Thank you all!