



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973 - Volume #168

P.O. Box 10127, Rochester, New York 14610

October 2011

www.browncroftna.org

BNA Executive Committee

Officers:

President

Laura Viau

Vice-President

Linda Siple

Secretary

Kathy Flynn

Treasurer

Larry Wardlow

District Reps

Elm

Chris Gaudieri

Corwin

Holly Petsos

Croydon

Mary Jane Tasciotti

BNA Voicemail:

234-0160

Inside This Issue

President's Message

Arts Connect

BNA Membership

Drive Begins

Fire Extinguishers

NYS Tax Credit

Update

Beautification

Committee Meeting

BNA or NWVA - What's the Diff?

New #46 School

Principal

Geocaching 101

Come learn about this 21st Century scavenger hunt type activity that uses a GPS!



Presentation and time for questions/sharing

Browncroft Neighborhood Association program

Thursday, October 20, 2011 7pm

St. John's Church (Peace of Christ Parish)

553 Humboldt Street-parking and entrance in back

Handicapped accessible

Refreshments will be served



From the President...

Laura Viau

It was a busy and fun summer for your BNA President. I enjoyed meeting new neighbors and I also got reacquainted with many people as I biked through all of the Browncroft streets. I delivered welcome packets, talked up the dog names page on our Facebook page, and found volunteers to deliver the Crier and teenagers to work in the gardens!

The neighborhood was busy with many city vehicles and private contractors doing work. Sidewalks were replaced throughout the neighborhood.

Thanks for everyone's patience, especially those neighbors who couldn't use their driveway. Trees in the tree lawns were cut down on Elm and Elmcroft. Stumps were removed on Elm. Homeowners get a choice of five trees that they can pick from to be planted next spring after the stumps are removed.

July brought our annual family picnic in Ellison Park. Thank you to Holly Petsos, Joe and Lucy Nunn, and Henry Viau for helping with the

continued on page 2

President's

from page 1

setting and cleaning up. A big thank you goes to Henry for cooking all the hot dogs on a 95 degree day.

I held Wednesday drop-ins at the #46 School playground for young families. These successful gatherings and the welcome packets will hopefully help retain new neighbors.

I would like to give a big

thank you to Glenn Cerosaletti, Elmcroft neighbor, for suggesting and getting the twelve University of Rochester freshmen to help cleanup the rose garden and the gazebo garden in late August. He read the Crier and answered my call. Thank you to Cassy Petsos and Mary Ann Evans who helped me supervise the students in the rose garden. Thank you to Cassy for obtaining extra

tools, bringing brownies and lemonade, and giving a history of the area and our parks. Thanks to Marilyn Schutte for working with the two UR students in the gazebo garden.

I met with the new #46 School principal, T'Hani Pantoja, several times and she came to our August board meeting at the Winton Library. I worked with T'Hani to get the portable unit on the Dorchester side of the school painted in September. I pulled the weeds around the playground equipment at 7am on the first day of school. The school is slated to get capital improvement funds next year and plans are being made with the historic rules in place. The architects hope to present plans to the BNA board in November. Thank you to Linda Siple, BNA Vice President, for bringing T'Hani flowers. I presented her with a BNA T-shirt and a welcome sign with a #46 School photo on it.

Thank you to Linda Siple for helping me with obtaining city information and making suggestions for my welcome packets. I also had tips from the new neighbors who received them!

There is now a pad for RTS bus riders to wait on at the Browncroft/Newcastle stop. I called RTS to double check about the bus shelter that the

continued on page 6



President Laura Viau, BNA Picnic



Mary Jane Tasciotti and Peter Schott in foreground



Vice President Linda Siple

NEIGHBORHOOD ARTS CONNECT

Are you a season ticket holder for 2011-12 to RPO, GEVA, Penfield Symphony Orchestra, the Nazareth Arts Center or another cultural venue?

To save the environment, to minimize parking hassles and to get to know your Browncroft neighbors, consider supporting the development of our Neighborhood Arts Connect.

Due to a crowded June Crier we are a little late in launching our inquiry but better late than never.

So if you would appreciate a ride to one of the above venues or if you are able to provide a ride to a Browncroft resident, please call me, Ann D. Weintraub at 482-8662 or e-mail to anndwein@frontiernet.net by October 10, 2011 with the following information: want a ride or can give a ride; your name; home phone and cell phone; snail mail address and email address; venue to which you can give a ride, dates and times of your series venue to which you would like a ride, dates and time of your series.

If there is sufficient interest, I will coordinate the connections.

If there is not enough interest in this initiative be aware that the RPO, Nazareth Arts Center and Penfield Symphony Orchestra do provide transportation. Check with them to make arrangements.

Lifespan offers training for volunteer drivers to take people to the above mentioned arts venues. Each of these cultural institutions provide specific benefits for volunteer drivers including free tickets, reduced price tickets and free parking.

Contact Sr. Anne Guerin at Lifespan, 244-8400 extension 142 to learn more about this option.

Ann D. Weintraub

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2011-12 RENEW OR JOIN NOW!

It is time for our 39th annual BNA Membership Drive which spans our June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012 fiscal year. Your returned membership form and \$5 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 advocate the goals and objectives of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association on behalf of the 672 residential households of the Browncroft neighborhood.

Please fill out and mail the Household Membership application envelope provided with this CRIER newsletter. (However, if you prefer to save a stamp, you may drop the envelope off at 195 Newcastle Road.)

The Household Membership level entitles everyone in the residence to be a voting member of BNA and also entitles them to any member benefits offered during the year.

In addition to your phone number, BNA would also appreciate having your email address and your household demographics. There is space provided for both with the additional option to sign up for our subscriber

BNA-Announce emailing list. A great way to stay connected with BNA between newsletters and meetings; over 330 are presently subscribed (that's up 25% from last year).

Annual dues are \$5 per household and go directly to supporting the activities of the BNA such as: publishing this newsletter (our largest expense); maintaining the Rose Garden at Browncroft Blvd. and Merchants Rd.; printing flyer notices; holding general meetings; and hosting our Winter Gathering Party and the BNA Family Summer Picnic.

Dues, unfortunately as with many organizations, only cover the basics and do not cover everything BNA wants or is asked to do. As you submit your dues, please take the time to consider any additional financial support that you can make to help us further our neighborhood work. Last year BNA had 280 member households and 100 of those provided an extra contribution.

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

CRIMEREPORTS.COM - RPD'S NEW REPORTING METHOD

RPD and their crime prevention officers (CPOs) are no longer providing printed crime reports to the community from the Monroe County Crime Analysis Center as they had done in the past. However, they will continue the reviewing of criminal activity at their monthly PCIC meetings. Since July 22nd, the City and RPD have converted all reporting of recent City crime data to the internet site of www.CrimeReports.com.

The site is available 24/7 and is updated frequently by RPD with the data on recent significant crimes from throughout the city. There is expected to be a several days time lag during this process. Upon reaching the site, enter an address and the crime map of the surrounding area will appear. It will also show beyond the local crime, the location of sex offenders per the national registration database. Selecting an icon will provide the detail information of the incident.

The PCIC that includes our neighborhood meets on the 2nd

continued on page 5

U OF R'S WILSON DAY OF CARING BENEFITS NEIGH- BORHOOD

It was a beautiful day August 29th in more ways than one. The weather was perfect and the twelve students that got off the bus from the University of Rochester to help cultivate our Browncroft Rose Garden and the North Winton Gazebo Garden brought good will and strong bodies. Ten

students labored to weed and edge 6 rose beds plus the annual ring in the Rose Garden at the Browncroft

and Merchants Road intersection with Mary Ann Evans, Cassy Petsos, Laura Viau and 2 students worked with NWVA's Marilyn Schutte at the Gazebo Garden at the Merchants-Winton-Elm intersection.

Thanks guys - Reggie Hooks, Pablo Galicia, Phil Moulton, Ahsum Khan, Luis Alonso, Clint Cantwell, Rory-Stefan Affoon, David Yu, Evan Espinoza, Eric Tse, Hawn Zhang, and Travis Kohler.

by Cassy Petsos



IS YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHER UP TO DATE?

I recently attended a meeting where a representative from the Rochester Fire Department presented. He mentioned that fire extinguishers should be inspected annually. When I arrived home, I was dismayed to discover the expiration date on our extinguisher was 1987! I took the extinguisher to Monroe Extinguisher Company at 107 Dodge St. They were very helpful and provided the information for this article:

Fire extinguishers need to be inspected annually. You can find a check list of things to look for at www.fire-extinguisher101.com. Monroe will provide an inspection for \$5. Every 6 years the extinguisher should undergo a hydrostatic (pressure) test, be discharged and recharged by a certified distributor. The fee depends on the size and type but it is in the \$45.00 range. Recharge extinguishers immediately after use regardless of how much was used. If your extinguisher is older than 1984, it is obsolete and should be replaced. For residential use, an ABC or BC extinguisher is recommended.

Remember: If the fire is bigger than your extinguisher, call 911 immediately.

by Linda Siple

NEW PRINCIPAL T'HANI PANTOJA TAKES CHARGE AT #46 SCHOOL

Ms. T'Hani Pantoja is currently the new principal of Charles Carroll, School #46. Last year she supported the opening of one of Rochester's newest High schools -Robert Brown High School of Construction and Design. She served as Acting Executive Director of the Department of English Language Learners.

For four of the 16 years as an educator, she served as principal of Lincoln School #22. Under her leadership, the school was moved from SINI (Schools in Need of Improvement) status to a school in Good Standing. During this time she was also honored as News Channel 8 Golden Apple Award winner.

Ms. Pantoja's other experiences include serving the Greece Central School District as an assistant principal and coordinator of the Pre-K and Head Start program, teaching in elementary school for the Rochester City School District, teaching intermediate grades at Kodak Park School #41 and working as the Instructional Support Teacher at Henry Hudson School #28.

As a child she attended Rochester City School #5, Jefferson High School, and John Marshall High School. She attended undergraduate at St. John



Fisher College and pursued her masters at SUNY Brockport.

She is passionate about literacy and has been a strong supporter for the educational needs of students with diverse learning needs including English Language Learners. Her goal is to support a building that encourages students with a rigorous, engaging, and relevant educational experience that prepares them for advanced educational opportunities and meaningful employment.

Provided by Rochester City School District

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 22

BNA is having a beautification committee meeting to plan for the care and maintenance of the BNA gardens and the neighborhood as a whole.

We will talk about types of plants to plant, how to recruit volunteers to help with weeding, planting, and pruning. We have been working with School #46 and their buildings and grounds are looking great. They do have some green initiatives with the students that we may be able to help with.

We have 18 streets, two gardens, and a school in our neighborhood.

The meeting will be at Laura Viau's house, 155 Elmcroft at 9:30am on Saturday, October 22, 2011.

New members are always welcome. Please call 234-0160 to RSVP.

BNA's 2012 Winter Gathering Is Coming!

Our 34th Annual WINTER GATHERING is scheduled for Friday, January 20, 2012 at Glendoveer's, 2328 Old Browncroft Blvd. Mark your calendar now! Look on the web site and in the January 2012 CRIER newsletter issue for details for this fun time for our Browncroft neighbors to relax and gather for conversation, food, and drink.

Last year 99 reservations were received. Tickets will be priced at \$20 for BNA members and \$21 for others.

By Bob Genthner

WELCOME WINTON ROAD LIBRARIAN

Jeanne Slocumbe is the new young adult and children's librarian at Winton Road Library. Jeanne will be ordering materials and planning programs for children and teens. Jeanne can be spotted at the reference desk, the children's room desk, and her main desk in the teen area. Jeanne comes to us with a wealth of experience from working at the Charlotte, Wheatley and Arnett city branch libraries. Jeanne was happy to be assigned to our neighborhood library. Jane McManus, often called the Storytime Lady, still plans programs and gives story hours for the young children. We can look forward to wonderful youth services from both of these excellent employees.

Laura Viau

Crime

continued from page 3

Wednesday each month at 7:00 PM at the Thomas P. Ryan Community Center on Webster Avenue.

Please feel free to attend the PCIC or call your CPO at the South East Quadrant Neighborhood Service Center 428-7640 if you have questions.

To report an emergency or a crime in process call 911 and for all other needs call 311. Suspicious activity is a 911 call. You can ask for your call to be reported as anonymous.

Additional Neighborhood Watch information is available on our www.browncroftna.org website. Browncroft Neighborhood Crime Alerts are provided through BNA-announce subscriber email, www.facebook.com/browncroftna, and www.twitter.com/browncroftna. If you are interested in walking PAC-TAC in your Browncroft neighborhood, please contact me at 482-2441.

by Bob Genthner,
Neighborhood Watch Committee

BNA OR NWV- WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

New and long time homeowners often ask which association their street belongs in and what is the difference. Merchants and people from other areas of the city often wonder as well.

Browncroft does get email inquiries from city residents on nearby streets and we do give them referrals to the right city department for assistance. Our list serv, the BNA-Announce, is a public list serv and anyone may register for it.

Browncroft started in 1973 and handles issues directly relating to the quality of life of 18 strictly residential streets: Elmcroft Road, Elm Drive, Berwick Road, Lanark Crescent, Monticello, Merchants Road, Quentin Road, Browncroft Boulevard, Corwin, Windemere, Dorchester, Newcastle, Croydon, Yarmouth, and Beresford Roads, Ramsey and Gramercy Parks, and Gaslight Lane. We have a representative from each street who reports concerns to the board. In addition to our website (Facebook and Twitter accounts as well), we produce a newsletter, the *Browncroft Crier*, that goes to all 672 homes. We hold social events, an annual meeting, educational programs twice a year, and our biannual neighborhood wide garage sale.

North Winton Village covers a much larger area. It goes from Culver Road east to Winton Road, the Irondequoit line south to University Avenue. North Winton Village deals more with the merchants, economic development and commercial district-beautification. NWV has an office (the Safety Center) on East Main Street. They hold many well attended informational meetings and have an arts festival in late September and a Holiday Festival along Winton Road in December.

They are two different organizations that may work together on zoning issues that effect BNA neighbors directly, or such major concerns as the spring 2011 campaign to save our neighborhood library. BNA does

continued on page 6

BNA WEB SITE UP- GRADED

Recently the Browncroft web site was upgraded to the latest platform version. This was the first major upgrade since its 2007 start up. Thanks to Paul Tomblin for accomplishing this task. You will now find a blue background theme as you arrive at www.browncroftna.org. Some menu orientations have moved, but all the features you found before are still there.

If you have suggestions on content or feedback on your use of the site, please forward them through the web site's contact page.

We continue to offer content on the www.facebook.com/browncroftna page, check it out frequently. And for twitter folks, we maintain a presence at www.twitter.com/browncroftna for occasional updates from BNA. Feedback or posting to either is welcomed!

By Bob Genthner

New Street Reps and Crier Deliverers

We have a new street rep on Elm Drive. BNA would like to extend a warm welcome to Becky Hall. Becky would like to meet more people and become more involved with the neighborhood.

Diane Barone on Elm Drive is a new Crier deliverer, as well as Shirley and Phil Hinkelman on Windemere block who offered to assume the position of Crier deliverers previously held by Hillary Appleman. Sherry Ilentilucci is our new deliverer on Lanark Crescent. Last but not least, Anne Chew and Mary Jane Tasciotti on Yarmouth Road switched positions. Anne is now a Crier deliverer and Mary Jane is the Yarmouth Road street representative and the Croydon District representative.

Our thank you to all reps and deliverers that have retired and/or moved from the neighborhood.

Laura Viau

NEW DOG OWNERS SOCIAL CLUB

A new Facebook group page has been started by a resident of Corwin Road, Hank Shaw, -- "Browncroft Dog Owners Social Club" -- to help people remember the names of dog owners and pets. To join, people just need to send him a message and their facebook name such as "John Doe, Corwin Road, owner of Bowser age 10 weeks."

Hank introduced his "Browncroft Dog Owners Social Club" group page with the following explanation: "There is a dog community within the Browncroft Neighborhood. But you know what? With so many roving owners and dogs, it's hard to keep track of everyone's name. That's why I started this page. Email me if you want to join."

To join go to the Facebook page and click on "request to join".

by Bob Genthner

MEDICARE PLAN SELECTION TIME CHANGES

This year the dates for selecting/ changing ones Medicare supplement are earlier than in the past. The selection period begins October 15 -- that's a Saturday so really it is Monday the 17th -- and ends December 7. It's important to be aware of the earlier end date.

If you would like more information on this, contact Craig Epperson at craige@rochester.rr.com. He lives on Newcastle Road and has started to volunteer at LifeSpan HIICAP (Health Insurance Information Counseling & Assistance). HIICAP helps people with Medicare issue, information on choices and how to find resources around these issues.



NEW YORK STATE TAX CREDITS FOR HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The New York State tax credits that took effect January 1, 2011, for qualifying home improvement costs to historic properties for projects that contribute to the preservation of the historic integrity of a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places (or is a contributing property in a listed historic district), now potentially apply to all properties within the Browncroft Historic District, based on the new census. Prior to the new federal census, only half of the BHD fell within an income eligible census tract, as reported in the January 2011 Crier.

This credit will cover 20% of qualified rehabilitation costs of structures, up to a credit value of

\$50,000.00 providing the project has qualifying rehabilitation costs that exceed \$5000; spend at least 5% of the total on exterior work; and receive preliminary approval from SHPO staff.

For more information on the National Register of Historic Places, visit: www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/register/. To find out if a property qualifies and to get an application, go to www.nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/, or contact: Residential Tax Credit Program, Division for Historic Preservation, Peebles Island Resource Center, PO Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188-0189 (518) 237-8643 extension 1.

by Cassy Petsos

President's

continued from page 2

workmen mentioned. There is no shelter planned. I will work on getting the sidewalk extended from the last house on Browncroft to the bus stop.

The Winton Road construction project (Browncroft to Blossom) has been postponed to 2015 due to lack of federal funding.

The summer also brought about the completion of the street lights petition gathering. We are now in the next phase-selecting the lights.

We are looking for street reps on Merchants and Gaslight Lane. I have been looking for someone on Gaslight to write an article about the history of their street. We are also looking for hospitality help, gardeners, and a co-chair for the Gazebo Garden committee.

I would like to encourage everyone to volunteer in some way, register on our website for our emails about events and major announcements, send in the \$5 dues if you can, and meet your neighbors! Also, mark your calendars for the annual post-holiday party at Glendoveers on Friday, January 20, 2012!

BNA or NWVA?

continued from page 5

sponsor a portion of the NWV arts festival, an event that all area communities enjoy. BNA had a table at the festival this year to promote our organization and meet neighbors.

Their websites are: www.browncroftna.org and www.northwintonvillage.com. Volunteers are always welcome.

By Laura Viau

Volunteers Needed

Green Thumb needed! Browncroft is currently looking for someone with gardening knowledge to manage the gazebo garden with the North Winton Village. We always welcome volunteers in both the gazebo and rose gardens. We will give direction if needed. Browncroft is also looking for street reps for Merchants, and Gaslight Lane. Please leave us a message at 234-0160 or contact us through our website, inquiries@browncroftna.org. We are also looking for people to assist with hospitality and event planning.