



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

July 2011

BNA Executive Committee

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234-0160

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BNA's SUMMER FAMILY PICNIC!

Wednesday July 20, 2011

starting, at 5:30 PM

Sycamore Shelter in Ellison Park

(Entrance is on the south side of Blossom Road,
go over the bridge, take 1st right, keep left.)

BNA will provide charcoal fires for grilling,
hot dogs and rolls, condiments,
cold lemonade drinks
and marshmallows for toasting.

Bring a dish to pass and your
own plates and silverware for your family.

RSVP by phone at 234-0160

(leave a message) or email to

info@browncroftna.org

(Include your name, phone number, and
number attending by July 18th to help us plan!)

It's fun. It's free.

All are welcome

**Meet your neighbors at the park
on July 20th!**

Hope to see you there.



From the President.....

Laura Viau

Thank you all for patience with the garage sales and the house tour all within six weeks of each other! Guests all looked happy. I greeted house tour guests on Saturday afternoon while biking! Thank you to everyone who mowed so promptly when it stopped raining this spring! There were such small windows of opportunity for mowing.

It was a tiring spring with trees down in the storm and the threat of our library closing for good. However, BNA and NWV and city and suburban residents from all around rallied to show their support and we won. I was the chairperson of the petition table and attended the mayor's budget meetings and led a meeting at the library for concerned citizens. The Winton Road Library will be starting up a Friends group in the fall. BNA will send out an alert.

I have lived on Elmcroft Road since November 1987. I have been a dues paying member and rose garden worker since then. I was street rep, district rep, and vice president. I have filled in with Crier delivery and have worked in the Gazebo garden as well. I call when lights are out or shopping carts are left in the gardens or on corners. I help neighbors with shoveling on my own so they can stay in their homes. These neighbors have always been kind and have a cheery hello for me.

I was director of a public library for three years and have many years of librarianship and supervision behind me. You may expect me to organize, get people involved and recognize them, and keep you informed in a reasonable way. You will also see Elm District and all of Browncroft publicized and unified. You will also notice library tidbits too!

I have already solved some

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GARAGE SALE 2011

This year the garage sale registered 190 household sales on our Browncroft streets; another strong turnout for this 17th biennial sale. A big thank you goes out to those who registered and supported this event which dates back to 1983, and that draws visitors from across the county and New York State.

The addition of 4 restrooms at two locations this year was very well received by our visitors and especially by the merchants on Winton Road who in previous years had closed off their restrooms to the public. This added expense was well worth the cost. However, this also resulted in the need to purchase commercial Liability Insurance for placing the restrooms on the grounds of School #46 and the City's Rose Garden Park. This, along with advertizing ads and related cost, the Garage Sale lost money for the first time in its history.

Parking and traffic flow continue to be a major concern, especially on Saturday during peak hours. We encourage following alternate street parking restrictions throughout the area. We have looked into numerous other solutions with the city (i.e. one way streets, etc.), but all include a high price and additional restrictions.

This will all be reviewed and addressed for our next BNA Garage Sale on May 4, 5, 2013.

Bob Genthner

School's Out!

Please slow down and remain stopped if there is cross traffic.



The Elm District has two-way, alternating stop signs. Newcastle Road has four-way stop signs.

BE ON YOUR WAY WITH BNA EXPANDS SERVICES

Based on input from the BNA's Winter Gathering and with the support of "Be On Your Way" volunteer drivers, rides for grocery shopping and other necessary errands/appointments will now be provided. This is in addition to transportation for medical appointments.

We are pleased to announce that Joyce Worboys has offered to take on the responsibility of Volunteer Coordinator for "Be On Your Way with BNA".

To schedule transportation for any of these services, call 733-4386 seven days in advance. Our 12 cheerful and competent driver volunteers will do their best to meet your needs.

Your Browncroft Home for a Lifetime committee continues to seek ways to make life in Browncroft longer and easier. Let us know your needs and wants. Suggestions can be made to Ann D. Weintraub at anndwein@frontiernet.net or at 482-8662.

BNA 2010-2011 MEMBERSHIP WRAP UP

We end our 2010-2011 membership year with 280 paid households. That's 42% of the Browncroft neighborhood. Thank you for your great showing of support and a special thank you to the 100 neighbors who included an additional donation above the \$5 dues. This is our major source of funding for our BNA's yearly activities. Ten (10) of our 17 streets had over 40% membership. The top street again this year was Windemere Road with 73.3%.

We will be holding our 2011-2012 membership drive in October.

Bob Genthner, Membership
Chairperson

ELM DISTRICT NEWS

Laura Viau

The biggest news is that your new President lives in the Elm District! Please let me know any suggestions that you might have.

As soon as the 25+ year street lights project/petition is completed in the Browncroft Subdivision, we have something to present that will make all the streets look nicer and will unify and promote all of the BNA streets.

The storm last month did some gutter damage to a house on Lanark and a tree fell on a car in the backyard of new Elmcroft Road neighbors.

Please remind your guests of the alternating stop signs. We have

so many new neighbors, children, and a lot of dogs! Many of the neighbors, including the new ones, have been sprucing up their houses and yards. Thank you!

Bob Genthner and Jane Zimmet are working on the Elmcroft garage issue. Not only is this a safety issue but we appreciate the red tape expertise from them. Be active and the board will notice!

Gene and Carol Oliver were back in the area for our garage sales. They raved about how nice the homes and yards on Elmcroft and the rest of Elm District looked. The Olivers lived at 156 Elmcroft

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A Little Bit of History....

Team Browncrofts



The "Browncrofts", known as the "Brownies" for short, was the name for a series of Rochester amateur sport teams representing the eastside of Rochester that played in area leagues starting in 1918 with baseball. At least one manager was listed as living on Croydon.

In the mid 1920s the Browncrofts expanded into 11 man tackle football. In the 1930s they moved on to basketball. The team played at local schools such as Ben Franklin. The football team played into the 1930s in the Rochester Football League (senior amateur class) on fields with names like: Gas Tank, Stromberg, University, Baseball Park, Happy Don Park, Ellison Park, Lower Maplewood Park, and Edgerton Park. The football team of 1928 was the Rochester Football League Champions playing against teams with the names of Invincibles (which won the cup in 1927), the Kingstons, 10th Ward, Reservoir Jrs., Senecas, Clermonts (noted as the only Jewish aggregation in the league), Groh A. C. (from Dutchtown); and Lyellhursts (from Lyell Avenue).

There are over 150 articles in an archive database for the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle covering these amateur teams through the three decades of the Browncrofts, with game results, practice times, request for opponents to contact them for games, injury reports, and box scores. Amateur sports were heavily covered on the sports pages of the Rochester D&C.

As a little side note, according to a Webster 'Round the Town article in March 1951, Les Harrison, coach of the Rochester Royals, shared the program at a Webster Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting and among the membership were William Wolgast, Harrison's principal at East High School back in 1923, and Elmer Smith who played basketball with Harrison on the old Browncrofts. Yes, Les Harrison, of NBA fame, was a Brownie.

-- Bob Genthner History Committee

PLAYGROUNDS

In addition to our **#46 school** playground, there are many wonderful playgrounds in the Winton Road area.

Tryon Estates has a playground next to the new tennis and basketball courts, which is convenient to Elm District residents. The Tryon Estates apartments have regular and baby swings and slides. All are welcome and are located in the middle of Tryon Estates, between the Lutheran Church and the city owned baseball fields.

St. John's/Urban Choice has a small area at the edge of the parking lot.

#1 School on Hillside Avenue (Cobbs Hill) has a playground with a sandbox, so bring your sand pails!

#52 School on Farmington Road has a very nice playground. Parking is off Wyand Crescent (Wisconsin/Wyand/Shelford). Baseball and tennis courts are across the street.

28 School at Atlantic Avenue entrance has a city recreation center and playground. They also have a small spray park area. I found it to be slippery!

Helendale School near Winton/Empire has a playground, too.

There is also a new playground at **Abraham Lincoln Park** on Bay Road near Empire Blvd. This park includes a natural play area composed of logs and boulders.

We have loads of places for children to play!

BNA would like to promote our very own **#46 School** playground. Kathy Cook, formerly of Windemere Road, led a fundraising campaign for new equipment in the 1990s. Neighbors pitched in and donated to the cause! Come and meet neighbors and enjoy some light refreshments on Wednesday afternoons in July from 1-2:30 at the **#46** playground.

Laura Viau

LANDMARK SOCIETY HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR 2011

The Landmark Society would very much like to say that we are so honored and pleased by the hospitality of the Browncroft neighborhood! From the welcome of the home owners over the winter, to Bob Genther's assistance with the handout cards in April, and of course the on-going support of Cassy and Holly Petsos— it is the neighborhood where we most feel at home!

Yes, the event was a quality and quantitative success – raised much needed funds for the Landmark Society, and brought almost 2,000 people to the neighborhood.

As far as the rain – I had feedback from a Saturday participant who said “Everywhere I go people are so cheerful and so helpful – it makes it a wonderful experience no matter the weather!”

Cindy Boyer, Director of Museums and Education,
Landmark Society of Western New York

Lost & Found - World War II Photos

I purchased a used book at the recent garage sale. Inside the book were three pictures - someone's treasured memories I am sure. I would like to return these pictures to the owner, however, I do not remember from which house I bought the book. The pictures are of a gentleman in the military along with a woman in one of them. The notes on the back of the pictures read as follows: “Bee and Jack Reardon Dec 30, 1944 Yokohama, Japan October 7, 1945 Taken in front of the customs building headquarters of the 8th army”.

Anyone who knows the person(s) who these keepsake photos belong to, please contact BNA voice mail at 234-0160 or the web site at www.browncroftna.org and arrangements can be made for their return.

Stella Nozzi



65 Windemere Road, home of Susan and James LeBeau. This is a particularly historic home in Browncroft as the original owner was Leland Brown, vice president of Brown Brothers Nursery and the son of Charles Brown, founder of the nursery and Browncroft subdivision.

Browncroft Houses on the 2011 Landmark Society House and Garden Tour:

365 Beresford Road, Richard and Gale Kaul, owners.

175 Corwin Road, Matthew Barnum and Kenneth Miller, owners

193 Croydon Road, Thomas Calzone and Lydia St. Hilaire, owners

151 Newcastle Road, Karen Sardisco and Norman Williams

330 Newcastle Road, Joe and Linda Hanna, owners

49 Ramsey Park, Sandy Swanson and Martin Scott, owners

65 Windemere Road, Susan and James LeBeau, owners

75 Windemere Road, Cheryl Santore and Ted Wright, owners

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neighbor issues and contacted a merchant in North Winton at a neighbor's request for garbage cleanup. The merchant contacted the landlord right away and the proper garbage bins were delivered by a private company and filled within one business day! I also contacted the tenant in a house next door and asked about lawn mowing because it was so high. I gave names of neighbors who do mowing and someone did it right away.

Thank you to all who put their refuse out correctly. Please call 311 if you are not sure what can be collected and how to put it out. Brush has to be cut to a certain size; gravel can't be in a huge can, etc. If the city doesn't pick it up, the homeowner should call 311. If you have a multi-unit on your corner at Winton Road and garbage is not picked up, call the private company. 311 can tell you which company if it is not on the toter. The Elmcroft/Winton unit has one address for billing and one for pickup. I called several weeks in a row last winter and then the new driver got in the habit. Garbage is a health issue in the summer, for sure! Garbage goes out on Tuesday night for all of BNA. I send out an alert during holiday weeks. People with garbage out or don't know major neighborhood news, should register for alerts on www.browncroftna.org. Please feel free to contact me or stop me on the bicycle with your concerns!

Did you know that the Winton Road Library is open Saturdays year round 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.!? Double check near major holidays. Enjoy the air conditioning this summer! A BNA neighbor fixes the air and heat at our city libraries!!



Windemere's Pink Flamingo Family Migration

A flock of eleven pink flamingos have been seen taking up temporary residence in various yards on Windemere Road the past few weeks. According to rumor, Windemere "foster families" have been playing host to the pink flamingos while their



Flamingos come home to roost

family of origin was on vacation. Though our summer has been unusually chilly, these colorful birds, which are outside of their natural habitat, don't seem to mind as they pose photogenically for the locals to enjoy.

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for 30+ years, raising their family here. It's hard to believe that it has been almost 15 years since they moved to the suburbs for a one floor home. Thank you to all the new and longtime homeowners for having their properties looking so nice!

Gazebo Garden Beautification

The gazebo garden, located at Winton/Merchants/Elm, is now a joint Browncroft and North Winton Village venture. There isn't a sign so I wanted to make it clear to all neighbors. This change went into effect 9/1/2010 and Henry Viau is in charge.

BNA would like to thank Jeanne Turner of Elm Drive for her many years of keeping the garden looking fabulous as part of North Winton Village's beautification and capital improvement initiatives in this vacant city-owned lot. Jeanne is now gardening for the Winton Road Library.

We would also like to give a big thank you to Shirley

Maddock of Winton Road for her work with Jeanne. Thank you to Laine Williams for caring for the American flag and Peg Williams for the annual bulb planting. The Williams are Elm Drive neighbors as well and are still part of the committee.

Thank you to Marilyn Schutte, Cowboy Pavone, Nancy Roberts, Henry Viau, Marilyn Parchus, and Carol Boshears for planting, watering, and picking up garbage. These volunteers are from both BNA streets and nearby streets. BNA is always looking for more help with both the rose garden and the gazebo garden. Stop by or call the BNA voicemail at 234-0160.



CRIME PREVENTION

We have been safe in Browncroft though some events nearby have occupied the RPD.

Our web site contains RPD crime maps for our area of the city and bulletins from RPD on various topics. Recently items on pan handling and door-to-door scams have been added for residents' reference. Also, articles can be found on when to call 911 and other things of interest too numerous to publish in the *Crier*. Please visit the Crime Prevention Committee menu item at www.browncroftna.org and review the contents.

Additionally, the BNA-announce email has kept its subscribers up to date as events unfold or crime alerts are made available.

PACTAC (Police And Citizens Together Against Crime) continues to patrol once a month in the Browncroft area. However, we are down to only one member who lives in Browncroft. We continue to be in direct contact with our Crime Prevention Officer and other members of the RPD on a weekly basis.

---Bob Genthner, Crime Prevention Chairperson

Browncroft Rose Garden Seasonal Work

Despite the many rainy weekends causing the cancellation of spring clean-up and the planting of the annuals in the Browncroft Rose Garden (the 1.5 acre city park at the intersection of Browncroft and Merchants), a minimal group of beautification volunteers pruned, weeded and planted the rose bushes and seven beds.

Our gratitude to these stalwart and dedicated gardeners who are Mary Ann Evans, Linda Mauck, Kathy Flynn, Laura Viau, and Cassy Petsos.



Windows on Period Houses - Don't Replace, Repair

The BNA garage sale attracted more than enthusiastic customers looking for treasures and bargains. A replacement window salesman, seeing an opportunity to find homeowners out in their yard, was walking from house to house armed with a notebook of window advertisements.

This writer, advising him that he was in a designated National Register of Historic Places district and pointing to her house façade of leaded glass casement windows, promptly sent him away.

The windows of a house, any house whether historic or generic, are the most contributing feature to the character of that house. No matter how well modern replacement windows attempt to mimic interesting period styles, they fall short to the eye. And they will fall short in performance within a very short amount of time (usually 10 years according to the Preservation League of New York and the Landmark Society of Western New York) compared to the original wooden windows that have stood the test of time, and can continue to do so with good repair.

Concerning claims that new windows perform better, Steve Jordan, formerly the rehab specialist with the Landmark Society, who gave a window lecture for BNA in 2006, was quoted in a recent City Newspaper article "Closing the

door on vinyl windows" as saying "... you can take an old window, weather strip it, clean it up, and put a storm window on it, and it will perform just as well and sometimes better than a new window." It is also surprisingly more cost effective to do repairs like stripping away excessive layers of paint, putting on fresh glazing, weather stripping, and new sash cords than it is to remove and dispose of original windows and purchase and install new ones. It is also the more environmentally friendly ("green") way to go.

Homeowners who have inherited replacement windows from prior owners may want, or need to consider replacing them, and when doing so look for visual features among the many styles available that most closely replicate the original windows of the architectural style of the house, such as the pane configuration and the width of the frames, or reconstruct the originals.

Also consider that if your property is in an eligible census tract to receive historic rehabilitation tax credits, all work on the house must preserve such features as windows to qualify for such tax credits.

There is a good deal of technical information on many home maintenance subjects on the Landmark Society's web site: <http://www.landmarksociety.org>.

Cassy Petsos



Above left- architect's house in c.1918 with the original windows. A fire in the early sixties necessitated the installation of modern windows. Above right shows house today with single pane picture windows and sash windows where casement windows with multiple panes once were. Though still an interesting house, some of the original picturesque quality was lost.

FIND IT ON THE WEB

www.browncroftna.org

BNA Events and Meetings Schedule

Crime Alerts and RPD bulletins.

Browncroft Home for A Lifetime

Home Service Provider List of Contractors - recommended by your neighbors.

Browncroft Neighborhood History - text of the history book.

Crier Newsletter - current and back issues

Sign Up for BNA-announce to get immediate late breaking news in and around the neighborhood.

Contact BNA by Email

Also check out Browncroft on:

www.facebook.com/browncroftna and www.twitter.com/browncroftna

Clip-n-Save Call 311:

for what refuse can be put out and how to bundle

for traffic lights on flash or damaged signs

for street lights that are out.

to report code violations

Wegmans, 244-7950 - Call for shopping cart pickup

Tops 288-7850 for shopping cart pickup

Courtesy of your BNA President, Laura Viau 482-9177