



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

January 2015

BNA Executive Committee Officers:

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Linda Siple

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Robert McLoughlin

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270-0890

Be On Your Way With

BNA: 733-4386

Inside This Issue

Street Lights

Fire Department

Sidewalks

Membership

Our Urban Forest

Elmcroft Stop Signs

Garage Sale Date

BNA 37th Annual

Winter Gathering

This Year Featuring the

"BLING BALL"

Friday, January 30th

at
Glendoveer's

2328 Old Browncroft Road

6:00 p.m.

Social Hour (Cash Bar) with hors d'oeuvres

7:00 p.m.

Buffet Dinner

Menu: Chef Carved Roast Beef, Chicken French,
Pasta with Marinara and Alfredo Sauce, Oven Roasted
Potatoes, Fresh Vegetable Medley, Rolls, and Salad.
for Dessert: Cake and Coffee/Tea

8:15 p.m.

Brief announcements and short program.

Tickets are \$24.00 per individual, \$48 per couple.

Please RSVP by January 20th

(See Details on Page 2)

Mark your calendars, find an outfit and rally the neighbors! A theme has been added to this annual party -- "Bling Ball". And although there will be no orchestra for dancing we want to lighten up the winter blues with sparkle.

We invite you all to get your "shine on" by wearing some previously loved or not so loved formal or semi-formal dress, tuxedo, uniform or vintage suit you cannot part with. Participation in the theme is optional and those that do participate are asked to recycle/reuse and not purchase new.

From the President.....

Linda Siple

Street Light Update:

The new street lights have been an outstanding addition to the beautiful Browncroft Neighborhood. Each week neighbors have been delighted as, one by one, the streets have been illuminated with our new concrete poles and globes. Unfortunately, the project has come to a halt as winter has set in. As of Friday 12/19/14 the Browncroft Neighborhood Street lighting Project officially shut down for the winter.

Throughout the winter shut down there may be days that are conducive to outside work, where M.L. Caccamise will have a crew on site to remove old existing steel light poles on Dorchester and Windemere. This will be sporadic work and should not be any inconvenience to any resident. Sid Reedhead, Resident Engineer will be on site throughout the winter shut down should any problems arise.

The lighting project will recommence early spring 2015 to complete Phase IV and Phase V as well as installing new granite curb, detectable warning surfaces and sidewalk areas. All affected resi-

dents will be notified by newsletter prior to any work being performed in the spring of 2015.

Questions and concerns can be directed to Sid Reedhead, sreedhead@bergmannpc.com

The Rochester Fire Department:

Representatives from the Fire Department attended the December BNA board meeting. They offered several important reminders.

- House numbers should be at least 4 inches tall and be clearly visible both day and night. Most homes in the BN have clearly posted house numbers but many are not viable at night! Make sure porch lights or spot lights illuminate house numbers.
- The Fire Department crews visit neighborhoods to make sure the fire hydrants are shoveled out. However, they can't do them all – they need us to help. If you have a hydrant on your property make sure it is shoveled out 2-3 feet, all around.
- Replace batteries in your smoke detectors twice a year. If you don't have a smoke detector, call 311 and request one for free.

2015 BNA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE UPDATE

I would like to provide an update on the BNA Membership Drive for 2015. As of December 20, 2014 we have had 281 households out of 672 renew or join the BNA.

Every street in the Browncroft Neighborhood has membership participation. We are currently at a 42% total membership.

We typically get more members at the Winter Gathering and through the first part of 2015. (Also, see page 3.) I predict we will hit 300 members for 2015. That would put us at 45% membership.

We were shooting for 60% which was an ambitious goal. While 45% is short of our goal, we did improve significantly from 2014's membership rate of 35%.

Incidentally, the highest participation rate that I have records for was in 2009 when we hit 46% (309 members).

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all the residents that have expressed their neighborhood support by paying the BNA membership dues; and to the Street Representatives who followed up with neighbors to increase our membership participation. Your efforts are appreciated.

Happy New Year and I'll see you at the Winter Gathering!

Robert McLoughlin
BNA Treasurer

Winter Gathering / Bling Ball Reservation Details

When making your reservation include the number of people, your name, address, and phone number.

BNA voicemail is 270-0890

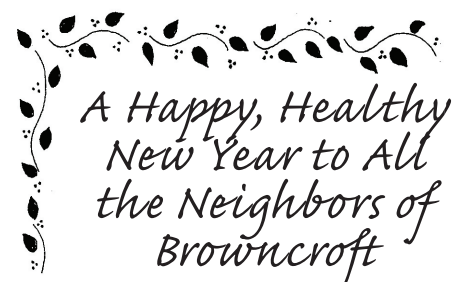
BNA email is: inquiries@browncroftna.org

Please send your payment by Saturday, January 24, 2014

to: Browncroft Neighborhood Association's

Winter Gathering, PO Box 10127, Rochester, NY 14610

(Checks should be made payable to the Browncroft Neighborhood Association)



*A Happy, Healthy
New Year to All
the Neighbors of
Browncroft*

SIDEWALKS – THE FOUNDATION OF OUR COMMUNITY!

A neighborhood where people can regularly be seen out walking is considered an indicator of livability – a sense that the community is a safe and friendly place to live. Our sidewalks provide miles of thoroughfare on which our neighbors travel through our beautiful and historic neighborhood. Whether we have 50 or 300 feet of frontage each of us has a responsibility to help maintain the sidewalk; keep it safe and inviting.

As part of the quadrant repair schedule, our damaged sidewalks were repaired several years ago. However, we also need to be vigilant and report unsafe sidewalk sections. According to the City website, “side walks are considered potentially hazardous if they pose an obvious tripping hazard (a difference in elevation at the crack or joint of at least 1.5” or if they are severely deteriorated.” If your sidewalk is unsafe you can submit a report online at www.cityofrochester.gov or call 311.

Removing grass and weeds that grow between the sections will help reduce cracking and edging the sides of the walk will keep it to its full width and look inviting.

NOT TOO LATE TO PAY

YOUR DUES: Just write your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address on a piece of paper along with any concerns or interests, enclose your check for \$10.00 to the Browncroft Neighborhood Association and mail it to the Browncroft Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 10127, Rochester, New York 14610.

A once-a-month sweep will keep dirt from accumulating in the joints which will help keep weeds in check. If you have shrubs that abut the sidewalk make sure they are trimmed back and overhanging branches have a clearance of at least 6’5”. (Branches sag when wet or snow covered).

Request your lawn service to sweep your sidewalk after they have applied fertilizers or pesticides. This will help keep the tiny particles off the feet of pets and shoes which later are tracked into homes.

Report to 311 if the street lights that illuminate your sidewalk are out and consider leaving on your front door light at night – the added light will be appreciated and helps to keep the neighborhood safe.

Linda Siple

WINTER MAIL DELIVERY

Please remember to clear your front porches of snow and ice. The US Postal Service rules say that your mail person does not have to deliver mail to your home if your stairs are not shoveled, free of snow or present a situation that could cause a personal injury.

Older neighborhoods such as Browncroft retain the luxury of having the postal carrier deliver to the door, rather than to a curbside mail box. This is more work for the carrier. Regulations aside, it is a good idea to ensure porch steps are easier to navigate for the mail person, if the homeowner is able.

BEAUTIFICATION FALL CLEAN-UP



The Fall Rose Garden Clean-up on October 25th was a great success this year. Thank you for the many neighbors who gave of their time to assist with raking, cutting-back and bagging debris.

The BNA owes a very big shout-out to the women who live in the Pinny Cooke house who came to help with the clean-up. There were more than ten volunteers from the Pinny Cooke house who came and made quick work of several beds!!! Thank you for being great neighbors!

In the spring the BNA will contract with a landscape company to compost and complete the edging of the four remaining beds. This will make the spring clean-up a much easier task. I hope you can join us on Saturday, April 18th.

Linda Siple

BNA Garage Sale Returns in 2015!! May 2nd and 3rd!

Start your collecting and sorting !!! Information will be in the next Crier and on our web site (www.browncroftna.org).

Our Treasured Urban Forest ... the Norway Maple

Latin Name: Acer platanoides

Native Habitat: Europe

Original to Browncroft Planting Plan: Yes. The row of shade trees 5 feet inside the sidewalk (toward the houses) and 30 feet apart on Corwin, Windemere, Newcastle, Gramercy and partially on Croydon, Yarmouth and Beresford were planted by Brown Brothers when the Browncroft subdivision was laid out.*

Description: Deciduous tree with dark green summer foliage in a compact, dense rounded form; grey, ridged bark with shallow furrows

Height at Maturity: 50' – 60'

Landscape Function and Uses: Shade, decoration, lawn tree, street tree.

Strengths: Grows quickly and tolerates difficult sites, pleasing form; widely available; transplants easily.

Weaknesses: Invasive species that produces numerous seeds that escape and germinate freely and have pushed out native tree species in northeastern forests; fibrous roots make it challenging to grow anything beneath the canopy and the tree can grow girdling roots that strangle and kill other main roots; susceptible to tar spot.

Fun Fact: In the early 1970's the City replaced many of the Elm trees lost to disease with Schwedler Maples (*A. platanoides* 'schwedleri'). This variety features showy spring blossoms and reddish-purple foliage in the spring and fall; but dark green foliage in the summer. Gramercy Road was planted by the Brown Brothers nursery with this variety of Norway maple, which is a hybrid crossed with the red maple (*A. Rubrum*), and not to be confused with the crimson king variety of maple that stays reddish-purple all summer.

***Note:** The BNA tree committee,



set up after the ice storm of 1991, requested that residents replace trees in the sidewalk right-of-way on their private property as the trees are lost. This would preserve the stunning Browncroft historic landscape. Although the mature Norway maples are a majestic presence with their comforting, cooling shade, it was NOT recommended that the Norway maple be used again to replant. In order to maintain the characteristic dramatic ambiance of the neighborhood it was, and is, recommended that we care for the original Norways but replant those lost with red maple, tulip tree, English oak, or linden, as they have a similar form and shade density, are non-invasive and hardy.

Mary Jane Tasciotti
(with historic references
by Cassy Petsos)

NEIGHBOR WINS TRAFFIC SIGNS FOR ELMCROFT

This summer Laura Viau was able to get the "Stop Ahead" signs at Elm Drive and Winstead Road in order to affect the Elmcroft intersection.

Many stop signs were replaced due to damage or being faded. According to Laura Viau this was a 20 year effort on her part.

Laura has been a resident of Elmcroft Road since 1987. She undertook this effort as a concerned citizen to benefit Elmcroft, Elm, Lanark, and Berwick residents. Time will tell if it helps cut down on accidents and the total disregard for residents by drivers cutting through from nearby streets and beyond.

Laura asked for two-way stop signs to be added to the current stop signs but Monroe County said the neighborhood didn't warrant it.

