



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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

Fall 2013

BNA Executive Committee

Officers:

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Robert McLoughlin

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Corwin

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Croydon

Mary Jane Tasciotti

BNA Voicemail:

270-0890

Be On Your Way With

BNA: 733-4386

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Are You A Browncroft Resident? Are You A Neighborhood Advocate?

Then **JOIN** hundreds of your Browncroft neighbors and become a member, **or RENEW** your membership, in the **Browncroft Neighborhood Association** **NOW** during the ...



ANNUAL FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2013-14



It is time for our 41st annual Browncroft Neighborhood Association (BNA) Membership Drive which spans our June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 fiscal year. Your returned membership form (enclosed) and \$10 annual dues is a strong sign of support to BNA's 17 street representatives, four officers, and eight committee chairs who serve on the BNA Board of Directors. The Board advocates the goals and objectives of the BNA 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.)

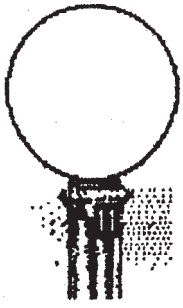
The Household Membership level entitles everyone in the residence to be a voting member of BNA and also entitles them to any member benefits offered during the year.

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, which is a great way to stay connected with BNA between newsletters and meetings. Over 407 neighbors are presently subscribed (that's up 11% from last year).

Annual dues are \$10 per household and go directly to supporting the activities of the BNA such as:

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STREET LIGHT UPDATE

The BNA – City of Rochester, street light replacement project is underway! This article serves as an update to the neighborhood on the status of the project. The street light committee met with City representatives to review the current status of the street light replacement project and to plan out activities for the next year. The street light project involves the replacement of the streetlight poles on Corwin, Dorchester, Ramsey Park, Gramercy Park, Beresford, Yarmouth, Croydon, Newcastle, Windemere and Quentin. The installation of the lighting system is on schedule to occur next summer 2014.

The street light project will involve three separate contracts. The first is for the manufacturing of the concrete poles which has been awarded to Sternberg Lighting. The other two contracts will be for the manufacturing of the light fixture and the installation of the lighting system. The light fixture prospectus will be issued in Sept/Oct 2013 and the installation prospectus will be issued in early 2014.

Pole locations: Streets that currently have concrete poles; (Beresford, Yarmouth, etc.) will have the new poles placed in the same locations. Streets that have tall metal poles, (Ramsey, Corwin, etc.) will have concrete poles placed in new locations. These poles will alternate on both sides of the street and will be placed 5-10 feet from the ends of driveways.

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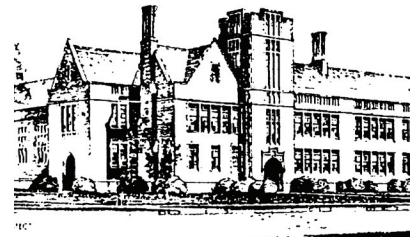
NEW BNA STREET NAME SIGNS ARE IN

Windemere and Newcastle Roads were among the first to have the new brown signs with white lettering and sporting the BNA Austrian pine tree logo. “They look lovely!” said Karlyn Alvarado of Windemere. “Thank you to all of those who were part of the process!”

It was Linda Siple, BNA Vice-President, who worked with the Monroe County Traffic engineers to make these unique signs a reality. “I think the signs look great and help to remind all of the special significance of our neighborhood!” she said.



Linda met many times with the county to work out the details relative to state regulations and the color options to bring the details and costs back to the BNA Board of Directors for a vote and final determination. Therefore, many thanks from the neighborhood go to Linda.



REPORT ON SCHOOL 46 MEETING WITH PRINCIPAL T'HANI PANTOJA

By Ivan Lennon, BNA Liaison

The school is most grateful for the BNA raffle check in the sum of \$200. (See article on page 5.)

Jack O'Keefe is the new custodian and a request has been made to central office for additional cleaning services to support facilities maintenance.

There are several teachers interested in landscaping, sustainability, and green issues. In light of the lengthened school day, student input might be sought in this area – e.g. gardening or “green” club to work on improving the appearance of the portable unit on the south side, and tending to the garden on the north side. This might be done in conjunction with neighborhood volunteers organized through BNA.

On a daily basis there is an individual assigned to enforce standing/parking restrictions on Newcastle Road.

Gretchen Conn, a first grade teacher, is the BNA contact person at the school regarding neighborhood relations.

(Any BNA resident interested in working on a School 46 beautification project committee may contact BNA at <http://browncroftna.org>. Click contact. Or leave a message at 270-0890.)

SPOT LIGHT ON NEW NEIGHBORS

Introducing Kim Geraci Brock in her own words ---

Family, life-long friends, great neighbors, beautiful homes and gardens – that is what the Browncroft neighborhood means to us. I am Kim Geraci Brock. My three siblings (Pam Geraci Tellier, Mike Geraci and Matt Geraci) and I grew up in the Browncroft neighborhood in the home that my parents (Frank and Karla Geraci) still live in on Yarmouth Road. My father grew up in the 19th Ward and my mother on Grand Avenue. They instilled a pride of living in this city into all of us.

When my husband Erik and I decided to start looking for a home – I crossed my fingers that we would find a home in the neighborhood and we did! We lived at 102 Beresford Road for nearly 9 years.

We updated every single room in the house, built a deck, wooden fence, and flower boxes. We made so many amazing memories in that home. Two of my elementary school classmates lived in houses just down the street and another one lived the next street over. We all felt that this is where we wanted to come back and raise our own families – in fact our son Chase was born while we lived in that house.

In March, we moved to 226 Corwin Road. We can still walk our dogs with my parents and are even closer to the 46 School Playground, library and restaurants. We look forward to living in this home for many years to come and making a lifetime of memories.

BNA PICNIC -- GREAT FOLKS, GREAT WEATHER, GREAT DOGS!



Above - Bob and Janet Genthner with grandchildren.



Right - from Corwin Road, Marilyn and Marlin Schutte and Marla Friedrick



Right - from Beresford Road, Andrea Zawieski, Robert McLoughlin and Caroline Critchlow

Membership

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publishing this newsletter (our largest expense at 65%); maintaining the Rose Garden at Browncroft Blvd. and Merchants Rd.; printing flyer notices; holding general meetings; hosting our Winter Gathering Party, supporting the BNA Family Summer Picnic, and this year funding the extra cost of having a logo and color choice on the new brown street signs.

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 250 member households and 90 of those provided an extra contribution.

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

Bob Genthner, BNA Membership Chairperson

Left - BNA President Aaron Thompson upholding tradition and manning the grill with support from first lady, Jennifer.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE BROWNCROFT ROSE GARDEN

The Rose Garden, located in the middle of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association boundaries, is like the neighborhood's square, except it would be more accurate to say it is a triangle garden park and green space. It is a dedicated city park, maintained by the city of Rochester with the help of neighborhood volunteers who tend the rose beds and annual plantings.

The volunteers work to ensure that it remains an attractive, highly visible asset for the neighborhood at the intersection of our two main roads – Browncroft Boulevard and Merchants Road – and also to keep up the tradition, in some small part, of having roses due to it's being part of the Browncroft Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

Michael Minotti and Gretchen Lunkenheimer, the new owners of 126 Browncroft Boulevard, thought it was a great place to hold

their wedding on August 24th. "We hadn't yet decided upon a place to have our small wedding until we found 126 Browncroft and everything fell into place. The rose garden is so pretty and we loved the idea of being able to always look out the window of our home and see the place we said our vows."

Congratulations Mike and Gretchen, and thanks for appreciating the park.

From time to time we see wedding parties taking their pictures in the Rose Garden, but the actual wedding may be a first.

Perhaps, with the help of a new generation of neighbors, the Rose Garden will see a revitalization of some of its former beauty. Until then, at least the tradition is alive.

by Cassy Petsos



NEED A RIDE? Be On Your Way With BNA

is here to help.

Neighborhood volunteers are ready to take you to medical appointments, grocery shopping, or for other necessary transportation needs within Monroe County.
Call 733-4386

Our Treasured Urban Forest The Sycamore – A Misunderstood Gem

- "Look at that sickly tree. It's losing all its bark!"

- "That poor maple tree has an awful disease!"

If you have considered any of these misconceptions while walking through the Browncroft neighborhood forest, you will be relieved to know we don't have an exotic bark-blight or a marauding deranged cat scratching the bark off our trees; we just have many beautiful sycamores or planetrees!

The Browncroft neighborhood has many very healthy sycamores. Browncroft Boulevard is lined

with huge and majestic sycamores. Those on the south side are original Brown Brothers' plantings of oriental plane trees, *Platanus orientalis*. The younger trees on the north side were planted by the city after the Dutch Elm disease wiped out the elms that previously lined that side of the boulevard.

All of the sycamores are easily identified; the leaves are palmate (like a hand) with 3-5 lobes that resemble maple leaves. The edge of the leaf is wavy with "teeth". The top is bright green and the underside is pale green. The sycamore's



most distinguishing feature is the annual shedding bark that leaves a camouflage-like design on the trunk and branches.

The reason for the shedding

Sycamores

is not clear. The most common theory is that the sycamore is fast growing and the bark cannot stretch to keep up with the tree's growth. Another theory is that the tree exfoliates as a protective strategy against unwanted freeloaders. One final theory is related to photosynthesis. The sycamore has a unique cortex. As the outer bark sheds the tree can photosynthesize; even without leaves.

The fruits of the sycamore are

small brown balls that dangle on stalks commonly called "button-balls". Break open a buttonball and you'll find tightly packed seeds.

"The Urban Tree Book" reminds us that the sycamore is much more than being an inspiration for a common city street name. Three American sycamores still stand in Gettysburg, Pa. and were witness to Lincoln's famous address. Sycamore seeds were carried on the lunar orbits of Apollo 14 and then later planted as a living monument at the US Agriculture Department opposite Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pa.

The Browncroft neighborhood is very fortunate to have several outstanding examples of this unique tree. The next time you are out enjoying our neighborhood forest and you come upon one of our sycamores, pause for a moment and enjoy the beautiful mottled patchwork of green, grays, tan and cream; a visual poem from nature.

Linda Siple, 76 Ramsey Park



Browncroft Boulevard looking west

Source: Plotnik, A. (2000). The Urban Tree Book. New York: Three Rivers Press.

Outstanding Fall Color to Check Out In the Neighborhood --

The **sweet gum** trees on **Dorchester** and in the Rose Garden with their multicolored orange, yellow, purple star-shaped leaves.

The **sugar maples on Quentin Road** turning bright orange very early.

Dogwoods blazing red in many front yards.

Norway Maples - with yellow leaves against blackish bark on Corwin, Windemere, Newcastle.

A THANK YOU FROM SCHOOL 46

My name is Gretchen and I am a first grade teacher here at School #46. I am also one of the teachers in charge of Spirit Club and school apparel sales/events. On behalf of the School #46 Family I would like to thank the members of the Browncroft Neighborhood Association for the \$200 they raised at the Winter Gathering for our first apparel sale last month. We were able to purchase sample apparel to have on display for customers to look at which I believe really helped boost our overall sales. Parents and staff appreciated having a visual of what they would be purchasing.

Thank you again for your support. I look forward to working with you this year.

Gretchen Conn 1st Grade
Special Education Charles Carroll School #46

Browncroft Rose Garden Fall Clean-up

***Many Volunteers Needed
Saturday, October 26th,
10:00 a.m.***

This is the annual fall work party to prune the rose bushes for winter, pull up dead annuals, and weed.

Volunteers should bring their own pruners, loppers, pruning saws, weeders and rakes. Heavy leather work gloves are recommended, and waterproof foot wear as ground is usually wet.

If it is raining, the alternate date will be the following Saturday, November 2.

It is a big job so please show up and help neighbors get the Rose Garden ready for winter.

BNA is still looking for a Beautification Committee Chairperson. If you have horticultural or landscaping skills, are able to coordinate with the city and neighbors, and have a vision for the park's future, please apply.

KNOW YOUR STREET REP (BOARD DIRECTOR) & CRIER DELIVERER:

ELM DISTRICT

BERWICK - Jim Nicholson (DISTRICT REP), Director,
Susan Brown, Alternate,
Loretta Scott, Crier
ELM - Becky Hall, Director,
Karen Schillinger, Crier
Diane Barone, Crier
Sally Wiesner, Crier
ELMCROFT - Vacant, Director,
Cindy Gary, Crier
Noreen Quetschenbach, Crier
Jon Swartz, Crier
LANARK - Judy Nanni, Director,
Sherry Ientilucci, Crier
MERCHANTS - Mary Connors,
Director & Crier
QUENTIN - Kathy Flynn, Director,
Sharon Bloemendaal, Alternate,
Margaret Richter, Crier

CORWIN DISTRICT

BROWNCROFT - Holly Petsos (DISTRICT REP), Director, Crier
Cassy Petsos, Alternate, Crier
CORWIN - Aaron Thompson,
Director,
Dede Ranger, Alternate,
Peggy DeFranco, Crier
Stella Nozzi, Crier
Jeff Frasier, Crier
DORCHESTER - Director Vacant
Larry Wardlow, Crier
GRAMERCY - Jim Bishop, Director,
Crier
RAMSEY - Linda Siple, Director,
Jane Zimmet, Crier
Sandra Swanson, Crier
Rosemarie Wolf, Crier
WINDEMERE - Joe Nunn, Director
& Crier
Rick Alvarado, Alternate, Crier
Shirley & Phillip Hinkelman, Crier

CROYDON DISTRICT

BERESFORD - Ivan Lennon,
Director,
Susan Lennon, Alternate,
Robert McLoughlin, Alternate,

Tim DeNatale, Crier
Kathy Hayden, Crier
Paul Rapoza, Crier
CROYDON - Michelle LaRussa-Trott,
Director & Crier
Carolyn Winer, Crier
GASLIGHT - Director, Vacant
Ellen Hasenauer, Crier
Tom Argust, Crier
NEWCASTLE - Bob Genthner,
Director & Crier
Joyce McAndrew, Crier
Beverly Hanss, Crier
YARMOUTH - Mary Jane Tasciotti
(DISTRICT REP), Director,
Anne Chew, Crier
Frank Fields, Crier

Street Lights

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Wisteria: Many concrete and metal poles have wisteria growing on them. The wisteria will be removed as part of the installation process. The contractor hired to install the poles will not be responsible for protecting or maintaining the wisteria. If homeowners are concerned about their wisteria they are encouraged to have the vines professionally removed. Clover Nursery has been contacted by the BNA and is willing to assist any neighbor.

Assessment: We still do not know the exact assessment for the street lights. When the petition was done in 2010 the City estimated the cost of \$0.84 per linear foot of property frontage for 15 years. At this rate, the typical 60 linear foot BN lot would be assessed \$50.40 per year.

Miscellany:

- All of the poles will be numbered to make it easier when reporting a burned out light.

- The black pole at School 46 on Newcastle will be replaced with a new concrete pole.

- Many of the current light poles have parking regulation signs posted on them. This will continue with the new concrete poles. Old, faded and/or bent signs will be replaced.

Neighborhood Meetings:

There will be two opportunities for the neighbors to meet with the city officials regarding this project. **The first public meeting will be November 14th at 7:00 P.M. at John the Evangelist Church, 553 Humboldt St., Rochester, NY 14610.** Enter from the rear parking lot door.

The church hall is downstairs via either stairs or elevator. The City will present general information, discuss pole locations and answer neighbor questions and concerns. The second meeting will be a pre-construction meeting in the spring of 2014.

Questions/Concerns: Please direct all questions and concerns to Linda Siple at LASNSS@rit.edu.

Submitted by Linda Siple, VP
BNA, 76 Ramsey Park

Save the Date

October 16 - BNA Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Library

November 14 - Street Light Public meeting, 7:00 p.m., St. John the Evangelist Church

November 20 - BNA Executive Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m.

January 17, 2014 Annual Winter Gathering