



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973 - Volume # 185

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

Fall 2015

BNA Executive Committee

Officers:

President

Linda Siple

Vice-President

Robert Scheidt

Secretary

Sandra Swanson

Treasurer

Robert McLoughlin

District Reps

Elm

James Nicholson

Corwin

Holly Petsos

Croydon

David D. Kaiser

BNA Voicemail:

270-0890

Be On Your Way

With BNA: 733-4386

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FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD-- HOME FOR A LIFETIME

OCTOBER 28, 7:00-8:30 P.M.

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH

1000 N. WINTON ROAD



SPEAKER: ANN MARIE COOK,
PRESIDENT & CEO, LIFESPAN
“Supporting People In The Second Half of Life”

Mrs. Cook will present on the many services provided by Lifespan to assist individuals to “age in place”.

You will learn about programs on insurance and finances, long term care, Medicare and health insurance, home safety resources, health and wellness, and protection against elder abuse, fraud or scams.

See “Be On Your Way” article on page 2

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

2016 City Assessment Public Information Meeting

October 28

(Following the Home for a Lifetime presentation)

Thomas Huonker, City Assessor will present an overview of the city's 2016 reassessment program and take questions from the audience.

See the article with timeline on page 4.

From the President...

Why do we live in the Browncroft Neighborhood?

Recently, the board developed a new letter which will be distributed to new neighbors to introduce them to the Browncroft Neighborhood Association. Now that we are entering the fall membership drive, I'd like to share part of the letter with you to help remind the neighborhood why we live here.

"Welcome to the Browncroft neighborhood! You have decided to live in a most amazing neighborhood. Your neighbors are diverse, socially active, civically minded, generous and caring. The homes are architecturally stunning, historically significant and cherished by the owners. The park-like setting is filled with abundant and extraordinary trees and shrubs including sweet gum, linden, copper beech, American chestnut, magnolia and wisteria. The outstanding quality of life and the very low crime rate makes the Browncroft neighborhood one of the safest areas in the City of Rochester. The neighborhood is centrally located. Within a 3 mile radius you will find quality restaurants, several parks with hiking trails and play grounds, nationally recognized museums, an independent movie theater, access to a world-class symphony and Broadway theater, several golf courses, the Rochester Public Library, The Public Market, access to numerous art and craft festivals, a variety of places to worship or create spiritual connections."

"Congratulations on joining this remarkable neighborhood! BUT – it is important for you to know

BE ON YOUR WAY WITH BNA

Call 733-4386

Hate winter driving? Broke a limb? Recuperating from surgery? CALL 733-4386 (5 days in advance) and get a ride from a vetted and trained Browncroft volunteer to medical appointments and necessary errands. Spread the word.

Janis Wheaton, who is a regular user of the service, says "Be On Your Way gives me the security and safety of transportation to my many medical appointments and at no cost. Drivers are cordial, caring and very dependable. I am so grateful."

Want to help a Browncroft neighbor get where needed? Become a Be On Your Way driver and "give a lift to get a lift."

Volunteer, Sharon Bloemendaal, shares her reasons for driving: "Each of us is just a heartbeat, a fall, a seizure away from being unable to drive. The service is for people of all ages. These are your neighbors so you don't have to drive far to pick them up. I meet interesting people with much experience. I get to read



magazines in doctors' waiting rooms. Someday you might need the service--pay it forward."

Just call Sister Anne Guerin at Lifespan, 244-8400 x142 or contact her at aguerin@lifespan-roch.org and become a driver.

Upcoming driver training dates are either: Wednesday, October 14, November 4, or December 2nd. Trainings are held at Lifespan, 1900 S. Clinton Avenue, from 9:00-12:00. Training includes demonstration of a safe assist, sensitivity to blindness, visual impairments and hearing loss, setting good boundaries, and signs of elder abuse. You will find the training engaging and practical.

Ann D. Weintraub
Facilitator, Browncroft Home
For A Lifetime

that these wonderful attributes did not just happen by coincidence. They are the result of many years of diligent labor by many of your neighbors. It is our responsibility to maintain and preserve this amazing neighborhood for future generations. What better way to do this than to become a member of the Browncroft Neighborhood

Association and volunteer your time.

Your street rep will be stopping by with a BNA membership envelope – please return it today with your pledge to support and preserve your neighborhood.

Linda Siple,
President BNA

BNA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE STARTS NOW

The 2016 Membership Drive kicks off with this issue of the Browncroft Crier. Your membership is important to the Browncroft Neighborhood Association. It provides fiscal and moral support to your organization, which builds relationships between neighbors so that we can more effectively communicate our concerns and continue to ensure the quality of life in our area. Through the BNA, we can present a singular voice to local governments and organizations to build a cohesive, concerned and safer community.

Annual dues are \$10 per household and go directly to supporting the activities of the BNA such as: publishing this newsletter; maintaining the Rose Garden at Browncroft Blvd. and Merchants Rd.; printing flyer notices; holding general meetings; hosting social events like the Winter Gathering and the BNA Family Summer Picnic; organizing general meetings with guest speakers; and sponsoring the biennial BNA Garage Sale.

Equally important, your payment of dues is an expression

of support and appreciation for the valuable personal volunteer time donated by BNA's 17 Street Representatives, 4 Officers, and 8 Committee Chairs who serve on the BNA Board of Directors, as well as the volunteers who perform their work for the betterment of this neighborhood of 672 residential households.

How to Pay Your Dues:

Please take the time to be a supporting member of BNA by enclosing your \$10 annual dues in the self addressed BNA envelope provided with this newsletter and filling in your name, address, phone, email, and demographic information. This information is kept confidential. Also, we recommend that you subscribe to the BNA-Announce list to receive notification of important neighborhood information or late breaking news. Your email will not be shared with any outside entity, social media or other neighbors, but it is a great way to stay connected with BNA between newsletters and meetings.

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

BNA AT WORK FOR YOU:

The BNA receives neighbor concerns and we do our best to follow up. Here is a list of our recent successes:

The city's Forestry Department completed the grinding of several tree stumps in the Browncroft neighborhood. There are a few still on the list to be done.

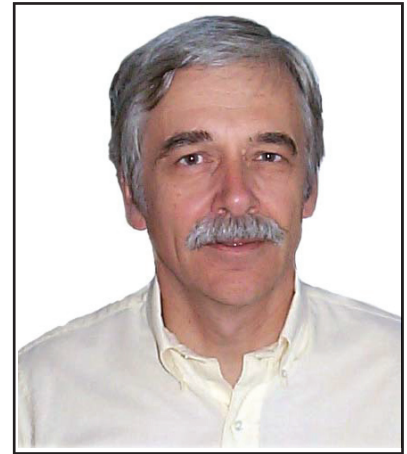
Numerous manhole covers have been hot-patched.

The dip on Croydon Road has been repaired.

Several new sidewalks were repaired again due to cracks caused by heavy equipment; a few still on the repair list.

We are checking into the Windemere Road at Fairhaven Road street name sign needing to be a brown color with the BNA logo.

A WORD FROM THE NEW YARMOUTH RD STREET REP & CROYDON DISTRICT REP... DAVID KAISER



I'm pleased to announce that I've accepted a nomination to serve as your Yarmouth Road Street Representative, as well as the BNA Croydon District Representative.

In this capacity, I will be an active BNA Board member, and am available to share your news, suggestions and concerns with the Board.

I've previously served three terms as BNA President in 2001 to 2003, and more recently served as Garage Sale Coordinator.

I have been a resident of Yarmouth Road since 1999. And I grew up at 150 Dorchester Road, having lived in that home, which was built by my grandfather, for 23 years, and attended School 46. You are welcome to contact me at 654-6604, or at ddk375@frontiernet.net.

David D. Kaiser

ALDI DEVELOPMENT APPROVED BY THE ZBA

On September 24th the Zoning Board of Appeals approved, by a 4 to 1 vote, the application by Aldi to construct a grocery store at the corner of Blossom and Winton Roads on the site of the former parcels belonging to Roly Door, Jim's Diner, the old Bill and Earl's car repair shop and three houses to the north. The combined parcels, of approximately 1.3 acres, wrap around behind the Tops' gas station.

Despite the subject parcel's location outside the BNA boundaries, BNA had filed a letter on June 17th in opposition to the development based on Browncroft neighbors' ongoing concerns for the N. Winton Road corridor -- that the "big box" building size and design was not in keeping with the urban village appearance; the projected increase in traffic at the already busy Blossom/Winton intersection would be untenable and a burden on nearby neighbors; and that the granting of a variance amounted to a rezoning of the parcel to C-2.

North Winton Village Neighborhood Association's Board of Directors supported the variance due to their many meetings with other interested but less suitable developers for the site, and ultimately with the Aldi representatives. They feel this use and building, with the changes they were able to negotiate and a lot of landscaping, will be an improvement to the area.

The number of variances needed, after two redesigns, were reduced from seven to three. The problems remaining were the building size, at 15,000 square feet, was greater than the allowed 3,000 square feet, the height of the Aldi logo entrance signs, and the posi-

tion of the windows on the Winton Road frontage, which start four feet from the ground instead of the required three feet.

The case was originally heard on July 23rd and adjourned twice, with recommendations from the Zoning Board to bring the building up to the street, increase the windows on the building, move the enclosed shopping cart area to the side, and increase the landscaping. These things had been done by the September 24th hearing.

Browncroft "Stop Aldi" residents spoke very persuasively in opposition to granting a variance.

In the Zoning Board's deliberations it was discussed at great length that big box stores are not consistent with the city's design standards. However, there are mitigating factors such as the proximity of other big boxes nearby and that Aldi had worked with NWVNA in good faith to improve the building design itself in order to make the building more in keeping with an urban village. The design upgrades included the addition of brick surfaces to more of the building, decorative lighting, awnings, benches and wrought iron fences. Also, it was stated that improvements to the vacant site could add vibrancy to the area.

It was also discussed that the projected traffic would most likely be travelers already using the intersection, and the issue would be how to handle the ingress and egress by regulating right hand and left hand turns into and out of the Blossom Road and Winton Road drive-ways. However, one board member sympathized with a resident

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2016 CITY OF ROCHESTER ASSESSMENT

In 2016 the City will update the 66,000 property assessments. The City is making every effort to keep neighborhoods informed about the 2016 reassessment program through mailings and public meetings. The BNA will host a public meeting on Oct 28 following the fall membership meeting (see front page). Mr. Thomas Huonker, City Assessor will present and BN home owners are invited to pose questions.

Timeline

May 2015 - June 2015: Property inventory reports mailed

June 30, 2015: Inventory correction due

July 2015: Review of property data begins

Fall 2015: Neighborhood meetings

Nov - Dec 2015: City mails new estimated assessments

Dec 2015- Feb 2016: Opportunity for review with City staff

March 2016 8 P.M.: Deadline for appeal

May 2, 2016: Final assessment

July 2016-Jan 2017: City/School/County Tax Bills



PICNIC PLEASURES

from July 15



Tom Gibbons (first husband) manning the grill for President Linda.



Funniest Hat contest winners Abi Genthner (youth group) and Sandra Swanson (adult group)



NEW ADDITIONS TO THE CORWIN STREETScape



Those of us who appreciate the traditional Browncroft subdivision landscape of tree-lined sidewalks have cause to celebrate the two newly planted maples at 144 Corwin Road.

When one of the original Brown Brothers Norway maples came down in a storm earlier this summer, the Regans promptly replanted with what appears to be a red maple and also replaced their other ailing Browncroft maple that was 30 feet away.

It will be many years before these young trees provide the

shade cover that we had always enjoyed in Browncroft during hot and humid summer months. But their replanting of shade trees on their private property, within the 5 foot area along the sidewalks, is a generous act of Browncroft neighborhood spirit, preservation and restoration.

Many thanks to Joseph and Judith Regan.

Historical Note: Property owners who have a space(s) to the inside of the sidewalk that is missing a shade tree, please consider planting an indigenous maple, oak, linden or tulip tree in order to keep our Browncroft historic landscape alive and providing us with the graceful, protective and cooling shade we need going into the future. The trees were originally planted by Brown Brothers Nursery for Browncroft Realty every 30 feet apart in order to create a "park-

like setting" in which to build the homes. You can see places where the sidewalks or the driveways to the houses take a strange turn around a tree. Now you know why – the trees came first!

Cassy Petsos

Aldi

from page 3

from Marion Street who pointed out that her street would become a cut through if traffic was forced to turn right out of the Blossom Road driveway, and then get back to Winton Road somehow. It was said that these details could be worked out by the county traffic engineers, according to their review of the traffic study, if and when a traffic problem develops.

The ZBA made a few more cosmetic modifications to the design plans as a condition of approval before the vote was taken.

Holly Petsos
Zoning Chairperson

BEING AWARE OF CRIME.

Two of the most effective ways to stop crime is to be aware by knowing what is happening in our area and then what we must do routinely in order to prevent it.

In the last 30 days we have had 4 cars taken and 3 burglaries. Two of the burglaries, which were on streets adjacent to Browncroft NA streets, were solved; but the other in Browncroft was not. At the time of this writing the car thefts have not been solved either.

The most fundamental solutions to most crimes are to lock your windows, doors and cars, keep the lights on in your houses if you are away so your house doesn't look unoccupied, and keep your garage doors closed and locked especially if you are not at home. And be a "nosey neighbor". If you see something that seems out of place or you suspect a crime call 911. Do not hesitate as you could be preventing a crime from happening.

Holly Petsos

Fall Clean Up in the Browncroft Rose Garden

Saturday, October 24th, 9:30 A.M.
(rain date set for October 31st)

Many volunteers are needed to quick prune the rose bushes, weed, and rake out the beds.

Bring thick work gloves, pruners and/or loppers, rake, and wear water repellent shoes.

UPDATE ON N. WINTON ROAD CONSTRUCTION/RESURFACING:

Over the summer the utilities have mostly been completed. There remains water main work from Juniper to Corwin. The project was significantly delayed due to a legal dispute in the acquisition of property to straighten out the intersection at Juniper Road and Humbolt Road. The call for bids to resurface N. Winton went out 9/21/2015. The bids will be opened on 10/13/15 and then referred to City Council for confirmation. The City will award the resurfacing contract in December. Refurfacing will start in April (weather permitting) with a completion date of July/August. (Information provided by Jim Hubbard, COR)

Linda Siple

Browncroft Area 2015 Leaf Collection Will Be November 10th to 14th

Leaf Collection Guidelines:

Rake loose leaves into a pile between the sidewalk and the curb before Tuesday November 10th. If you miss the collection period, leaves should be bagged and placed at the curb on your regular refuse collection day. Do not expect the city crews to return and pick up unbagged leaves after November 14th.

DO NOT RAKE LEAVES INTO THE STREET, where they clog the drains and create slippery areas. Loose leaves can also be dropped off at Ferrano and Colfax streets. Collected leaves are composted and made available to residents, along with stone and wood chips, through the City's free Give-Back Program. The site, located at Ferrano and Colfax Streets is open from 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. daily, April through December.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BNA Full Board Meeting - Wednesday Oct 21, 2015 - School 46 Library 7-8:30 (public welcome)

Fall Clean Up in the Browncroft Rose Garden - October 24, 2015 9:30

Fall Membership Meeting - Wednesday Oct 28, 2015 - Christ the Good Shepherd, 1000 N. Winton, Ann Marie Cook, Exec. Dir Lifespan, "The Browncroft Neighborhood: Home for a Lifetime" 7:00

BNA Executive Board Meeting - Wednesday Nov 18, 2015 - 76 Ramsey Park, 7-8:30 (public welcome)

School 46 Holiday Craft Sale - Saturday December 5, 2015 (watch for flyers)

BNA Full Board Meeting - Wednesday Dec 16, 2015 - School 46 Library 7-8:30 (public welcome)

BNA Exec Board Meeting - Wednesday Jan 20, 2016 - 76 Ramsey Park, 7-8:30 (public welcome)

Winter Gathering - Friday January 22, 2016 6:00 (more info to come)