



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973 - Volume #170

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

March 2012

BNA Executive Committee Officers:

President
Laura Viau
Vice-President
Linda Siple
Secretary
Kathy Flynn
Treasurer
Larry Wardlow

District Reps

Elm
Position vacant
Corwin
Holly Petsos
Croydon
Position vacant

BNA Voicemail:
234-0160

Inside This Issue

President's Message

On Your Way With
BNA

Winter Gathering
Thank You

Bit of History - Gas-
light Lane

Lawn Care

Streetlights

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The talents of the Browncroft area volunteers continue to shine throughout the years, enabling a positive impact on our neighborhood and community. This year, we are once again soliciting volunteers to assist in a variety of ways. The tasks



enable flexibility with your schedule, the opportunity to draw from your unique talents, and adaptability to ensure your time is spent as efficiently as possible. Please consider supporting these volunteer opportunities by:

Leaving a message at the BNA voice mail 234-0160 OR sending an e-mail to: Inquiries@Browncroftna.org (More detailed job descriptions available upon request)

Thank you in advance for supporting the BNA!

Street Representatives for Elmcroft Road and GasLight Lane - attend 6 meetings a year and vote representing your street, deliver welcome packets, collect dues

District reps for Elm District(6 streets) and Croydon District (5 streets) - member of executive committee and can vote at all meetings and/or electronic votes. Responsible for getting newsletters to all the deliverers on their streets, may be asked to help find reps and deliverers, serve on committees. District reps are usually one of the street reps from that district.

Beautification Committee Chair: Gardening knowledge a plus! You and your team will be responsible for both the rose garden and the Elm/Merchants garden. This could also include various School #46 projects, holiday decorating, etc.

Gardeners: Assist the beautification committee with weeding, pruning, raking, planting for both the rose garden and the Elm/Merchants garden

continued on page 5

From the President.....

Laura Viau

I hope that everyone is having a nice spring. I have always wanted to highlight GasLight Lane, a little known BNA street, located at the opposite end of the neighborhood from Elmcroft Road.

I have a trivia question designed to get people over to the Elm District. Trivia Question: How many gazebos are located in the Elm District? They can all be seen from the public sidewalk and/or street. The answer in the next Crier, prizes awarded. Elm District includes Elm, Elmcroft, Berwick, Lanark, Quentin, and Merchants. Come take a walk and discover the northern end of BNA!! Please leave a message at 234-0160 or email me at info@browncroftna.org

I am always learning something new about our neighborhood, even after 24 years! Elm Drive neighbors told me that Elm District residents used to vote in a building right in the Elm/Merchants park.

Please think about our cover story and get involved with our wonderful neighborhood! We need you! I always welcome ideas and suggestions. Thank you to everyone for all you do for our neighborhood and our city.

Thanks to the Many Gazebo Park Volunteers



North Winton Village and Browncroft would like to extend a most sincere thanks to so many wonderful residents of our neighborhood at large who over the years have given of their time

CHIEF ON THE ROAD

Monday, April 23rd 6:30 p.m.

St. John the Evangelist Church Hall

Be Safe, Be Heard, Make a Difference.

Join us!!

In collaboration with Browncroft Neighborhood Association (BNA) and North Winton Village Association (NWVA), RPD Chief James Sheppard will be bringing his "Chief on the Road" to the neighborhood on Monday, April 23rd at St. John the Evangelist Church Hall on Humboldt Street. (Access to the Church Hall is via downstairs or elevator from the back parking area door.) All are welcome.

6:30 P.M. The event's format will start with Chief Sheppard's 30-minute presentation on several relevant topics affecting the neighborhoods including a brief Q&A. This will be followed at

7:00 P.M. by TWO parallel activities, either:

1.) Chief Sheppard is having private 5 minute (one-on-one) meetings with individuals who have pre-scheduled for one of the available time slots until 8:00 P.M. Sign up for a private (one-on-one) meeting will be by email request to: rgenthner@browncroftna.org; Phone: (585) 482-2441; or at the door. (Please supply name, address, and phone.) Slots will be assigned in the order received – first come first serve. A short waiting list will be created for any new openings.

-OR-

2.) Concurrently, our sector's Crime Prevention Officers (CPO) will provide a presentation on prevention, security check opportunities, and introduce some of our Patrol Officers serving the area. This program portion will end around 7:45 PM with refreshments and some social time.

8:00 P.M. The Chief will give a closing wrap up of the evening's sessions highlighting any follow up activity he wishes to do. Look for flyers and web announcements for further details or any changes.

--- Bob Genthner, BNA Neighborhood Watch Committee



and skills to the Gazebo Park at Winton Road/Merchants Road/Elm Drive. It is truly an example of many residents from throughout the area working to create a Green Space for all to enjoy! Hopefully neighbors who are interested in helping with the park this coming season will please call NWV 461-6324 or 224-9766 or BNA 234-0160 or 482-9177.

Thank you to the following : Vince Sharkey, formerly of Elm Dr., Marilyn Schutte, Corwin Rd., Shirley Maddock and Bo Kretschman of N.Winton Rd., Jeanne Turner, Karen and Earl Schillinger, Chris Benziger, Charlie Conine, and Laine and Peg Williams of Elm Dr., Laurie Outermans, Dalkeith St., Ed Newton, Atlantic Ave., Tom Wood

continued on page 7

BE ON YOUR WAY WITH BNA

Need a ride?

Whether it is for a medical appointment, or necessary errands, (e.g. pharmacy, grocery shopping, post office, bank, etc.) give a call to 733-4386 a week in advance and one of our trusted drivers will hopefully be happy to meet your need.

In the 2011 year, neighborhood drivers provided 29.25 hours of service, made 70 two-way trips and drove 246 miles to service the requests of Browncroft residents. In October of 2011, a Recognition Brunch was held to recognize the good work of our volunteer drivers.

We await your call so Be On Your Way with BNA. If you wish to be a volunteer driver, call 733-4386 and we'll let you know how to become part of the driving team!

---Ann Weintraub

A Little Bit of History ...

Gaslight Lane - Tract Development 1967 to 1973 - A neighbor's recollection

By Terry Speck, 15 Gaslight Lane

The street was simply a city owned vacant lot, with access off of Blossom as it is today. The "field" as it was called extended all the way to Dorchester. After the fire in the gym of School 46 in 1963, the city used part of the land for reconstruction. The gym was enlarged, an Eastern wing built and the playground, parking lot and athletic fields were developed. The cement wall west of the rear basketball court is a vestige of the divider between former vacant land and school property. This actually extended north, behind the gym, to just short of the out-building. A chain link fence was installed at the Southern border of the school property, existing today.

The house at #1 Gaslight Lane stands on the northern part of the backyard of 1238 Blossom Road. In the mid-70's this Brighton parcel was sold and the home constructed.

Prior to the 1968 construction of #3 Gaslight Lane, the city owned lot was a dumping ground for sidewalk slabs the DPW had replaced around the eastside. Due to the haphazard array, the area was a playground in itself for the neighborhood kids. Many a fort was dug in and around this area, and of course, if a new washer or refrigerator was delivered nearby the packaging box soon was incorporated in any plan.

Where #53 and #54 now exist, a row of 5 to 6 cherry trees stood, perpendicular to the current roadway. An old, decrepit oak stood approx-

continued on page 6

Winter Gathering Attendees' Community Spirit Appreciated --

**a Thank You Note from
#46 School**

A few weeks ago I planned on attending the social hour for the Browncroft Neighborhood Association's (BNA) Winter Gathering. My intention was to share with BNA members, Charles Carroll School 46's sincere appreciation for the support they have given us over the years. I wanted to spend the hour meeting our neighbors, bragging about the beautiful, young trees donated to our school from BNA, gloating

about our wonderful reading volunteers from BNA, and, of course, sharing all the wonderful activities and programs at our school.

The hour turned into two

hours, and by the end of my socializing, I had spoken with so many magnificent individuals from different backgrounds and

continued on page 5



SUMMER LAWN CARE

While many are desirous of maintaining a lawn which would do Oak Hill proud, the reality of lawn care, particularly in a mature, treed environment such as Browncroft, is a daunting task.

Instead, you may choose to have a lawn which involves less mowing, fertilization and watering. The cardinal rule when you mow is to avoid scalping the lawn, especially during hot spells. Instead, mow at a higher setting as this will place less stress on the grass, inhibit weed growth and require only spot watering in areas which show evidence of stress. Admittedly, your lawn after mowing will not look like the Frontier Field outfield.

On the positive side, it will not "brown out".

By using a mulching mower, you will find that you need to fertilize less frequently.

When re-seeding, plant clover along with regular seed as it serves as a natural fertilizer. Organic fertilizers, including milorganite, are also best for the soil and are benign to organisms, including worms. Consider buying worms to add to the garden and lawn.

In the fall, compost at least some of your leaves which can later be used in your vegetable bed or when reseeding the lawn.

---Ivan Lennon

NEIGHBORS SIGNING ON TO NEW WEB SOCIAL NETWORK - "NEXTDOOR.COM"

Have you heard about Nextdoor.com, the new social network website launched nationwide on October 25, 2011 and designed for and about welcoming neighborhoods? There are now over 1,000 neighborhoods in 48 states residing at Nextdoor.com.

The "BROWNCROFT" neighborhood site on nextdoor.com was created two days later using the established BNA borders. Unlike Facebook.com, it is restricted in membership exclusively to the household addresses within a given neighborhood. All members of a household address can sign up individually. It is free and your page is protected by a password and encrypted by HTTPS.

As of February 18th this year, there were 52 households registered with 59 members. There

are no "screen names" used – real names only. It's secure and is completely safe and respects your privacy. It makes it safe for you to share things with your neighbors that you would be okay sharing with them in person or "over the back fence".

Nextdoor Browncroft is not searchable by Internet search engines. There is presently no advertising on the site. It has features for member profiles, neighbor chat, directory, household mapping, "buy/sell/free", event planning, resources, photos, and recommendations. It's simple and easy to use and the site developers indicate that more features are coming soon!

Browncroft addresses are verified by Nextdoor.com through mail, phone option, or a direct

continued on page 7

STREET LIGHTS UPDATE

Thanks to the many Browncroft residents who gave of their time and expertise over 28 years at various meetings at the Petsos, Genthner, and Lennon homes and the Winton Library, discussing the intricacies of lumens, wattage, post top fixtures, poles and costs.

Also, others, including Joe Nunn, Linda Siple, Jim Bishop, Marilyn Schutte, Kathy Flynn, Laura Viau and Kay Melnyk. This group canvassed, for a second time, door-to-door to secure overwhelming neighborhood support for this long-standing initiative.

We have reached agreement on the traditional pole with the historically correct fluting topped by a globe as originally erected some ninety years ago when the tract was built.

Councilwoman Elaine Spaull, Commissioner Paul Holahan and Ned Kelley have been most patient and supportive in bringing this project to its current stage with an impending request for bonding authority to City Council.

The CRIER will keep you posted as to future developments, which affect the street light circuit that included Quentin Road and streets south of Browncroft Boulevard (except Gaslight Lane). These streets originally petitioned in 1984 to reject the city's plans to install their generic fiberglass pole system. Their goal was to either retain their historic concrete pole streetlights, or to get them back to rectify an earlier replacement program.

---Ivan Lennon, Chairman,
Browncroft Street Lighting
Committee

46 School Thank You

continued from page 3

professions, and some were former School 46 students! There were many things they had in common. Everyone was approachable, generous, and genuinely interested in their neighborhood school.

During my time at the gathering I shared with BNA our school's monthly, positive behavior celebration: Pizza and Pajamas. I gave them the challenge of sponsoring one of the ten sheet pizzas our school would be purchasing for the celebration, and in return they would get a school shirt to show our appreciation. Within ten minutes our entire Pizza and Pajamas celebration was sponsored by the Winter Gathering neighborhood attendees! They had donated enough money to sponsor not only the ten sheet pizzas, but also our planned cookie decorating celebration!

At School 46 we teach our students a value word every month, and within a short period of time the BNA demonstrated all of them: kindness, dedication, acceptance, caring, responsibility, and cooperation. It is very evident that BNA embraces their neighborhood school.

I left the gathering, not only with an envelope filled with donations, but a renewed sense of community; a true testimony of the caring nature of our city of Rochester. Thank you again, Browncroft Neighborhood Association, for your kind support. There is no doubt that together we can make the Browncroft-Blossom area "Made for Living"...and learning!

Sincerely,

---Kristen French and
Charles Carroll School 46

Street Reps and Crier Deliverers Changes

Welcome to Mary Connors, Merchants Road, and Michelle LaRussa-Trott, Croydon Road.

They are both new street reps in addition to their Crier delivery duties.

Welcome to Carolyn Winer, new Croydon resident and Crier deliverer. Thank you to Rob Phelps, Croydon, for his work as both street rep and Crier deliverer. Also, a big thank you to Rob for paying for the BNA voicemail for many years. We appreciate it.

Thank you to Chris Gaudieri, Elmcroft Rd, for his tireless support and ideas for the Elm District as both street rep and Elm District rep for many years.

---Laura Viau

Volunteers

continued from page 1

Hospitality: Responsible for bringing and serving light refreshments at two general meetings a year, BNA picnic, and possibly assist with Winter Gathering planning. BNA reimburses for all purchases.

Event planning: Organizing the program with guest speakers for two general membership meetings per year - October and May's annual meeting. Summer events – bringing your creative event ideas to appeal to all ages in our neighborhood

Welcome packets committee: Coordinating welcome activities for new neighbors, such as distributing welcome packets of information. Training and current examples available

Outreach/marketing: Aaron Thompson will be chairing this

Gaslight Lane: Orchard to Cul-de-Sac (With a stop at the NYS Supreme Court)

In this newsletter, you'll find "A Neighbor's Recollection" by Terry Speck, sharing fascinating insights on the origin and history of Gaslight Lane. In addition to the article, history lovers may also find interesting research with further analysis of the Gaslight area published by Bob Genthner, a member of the BNA History Committee.

This information, in PDF file format, can be accessed at the Browncroft web site, www.browncroftna.org/history, for reading and download. "Gaslight Lane: Orchard to Cul-de-sac (With a stop at the NYS Supreme Court)" is written with Chapter I as the early history 1870-1973 by Bob Genthner, and Chapter II presenting Terry Speck's personal recollections of Gaslight Lane in the mid-60's and early 70's. Discover the rest of the story!

--- Bob Genthner BNA History Committee

newly formed committee. Tasks include social media marketing and also to promote BNA to streets with low involvement

School #46 Liaison: Best suited for a current school parent who could keep our board informed. Person should live on one of the 18 BNA streets

PacTac'ers: Working with the Rochester Police Department walking the neighborhood.

Litter Critters: Linda Siple, VP, would like to organize people to go out and collect debris.

--Laura Viau

Gaslight Lane

from page 3

imately where #53 Gaslight is now. These were most likely the plantings on the prior orchard acreage and were the only items left on the plot of land. The cherry trees were great to climb and led to many a sore stomach when the fruit came into season.

In late 1967 Asta Developers bought the land and construction began. As the street access was in Brighton, sewers, water and streetlight lines came in off of Newcastle. They ran behind the tennis courts and made a 90 degree turn, south, near the fence gate, ending at the Southern most end of the new road. The gate was installed between #111 and #116 to allow kids to get to 46 without a long walk around. The city did not want to allow the easement for a sidewalk and the land was simply split between the 2 homes, with the gate forever locked closed.

While bulldozing the topsoil away, a deep gouge in the land was formed, roughly where #71, #77 and #85 are now. With heavy fall rains, this area would flood and the result was a skating rink for the kids. This existed for some 4 years until the aforementioned homes were constructed in 1971.

When word of this new street got out, the city zoning hearings drew the interest of a group of nuns from the Mercy Motherhouse. The road needed a name and they proposed honoring a former Priest who had worked in the area hundreds of years ago. Hence Father Priedeaux was honored with the original street name of Priedeaux Park.

Homes at #3, #15, #22, #29 and #38 were the first to be built and

occupied. The two homes flanking the cul-de-sac went up next. In late 1968 and 1969 there were neither 911, nor computer aided dispatching for emergency services and actually each agency had its own 7 digit phone number and to convey a proper spelling of the Priedeaux street name became impossible. Compounding possible emergencies, the post office, pizza deliverymen and almost every store that delivered could never get it right. In light of this, a small group of neighbors requested of the city that a change be made; a simplification if you will.

At this time a huge Rochester Gas and Electric gas storage tank still existed across Blossom Road from the street. Also considered was the style of "gaslight looking" streetlights as we still have today. In light of all this, Gaslight Lane was born.

Due to the economy even in the late 60's the original developer pulled out and it was months for a second contractor to begin again. He built numbers #8 and #21 and more on the cul-de-sac, before he went bankrupt. Finally a third developer entered the picture to complete the homes in the middle, with final construction done in the early Seventies, completing the street as it is today.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Newcastle Road has new parking signs, Linda Siple reports.

St. John Neumann School's Open House is Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 6:30-7:30pm. This is the neighborhood Catholic school, located at 31 Empire Boulevard.

Mary Adams is a new RCSD school board member and has #46 School in her area of responsibility.

Laura Viau has a trivia question: How many gazebos are located in the Elm District? They can all be seen from the public sidewalk and/or street. Answers in the next Crier, prize awarded. If more than one right answer, names will be picked from a hat. Elm District includes Elm, Elmcroft, Berwick, Lanark, Quentin, and Merchants. Come take a walk and discover the northern end of BNA!! Please leave a message at 234-0160 or email Laura via BNA contact at info@browncroftna.org.

Browncroftna.org website has lots more neighborhood information and features. Check it out!

Go Green

be planted on the tree lawn. A continuous canopy of cooling shade along our streets is a comfort to walkers in summer's heat, and creates an aesthetic streetscape for all.

Plant a shade tree in the public right-of-way in front of your house if none exists there. Or contact City Forestry at 428-7581, and request a shade tree



NOMINATIONS FOR BNA OFFICERS FOR 2012-2013 TO BE HELD IN MAY

This May BNA will hold its 40th BNA Annual Meeting on May 24th, at which the membership will elect four officers for 1-year terms: president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary.

The Board of Directors' Nomination Committee has begun the search for 2012-13 leadership candidates to carry forward a vibrant Browncroft Neighborhood Association that remains dedicated to "promote, organize, and carry on those activities which are intended to maintain and improve the character and quality of neighborhood living in the Browncroft area."

On our web site, www.browncroftna.org, you can find our BNA Constitution and Bylaws which contain job descriptions.

You may call or contact Ivan Lennon, who is heading the nominations committee at ilenon@rochester.rr.com or via phone at 288-0636 to nominate yourself or another individual. Or you may email your nomination to info@browncroftna.org or leave your nomination on our BNA Message line at 234-0160.

--- Bob Genthner

MAYOR'S VOICE OF THE CUSTOMER MEETINGS

The following locations have been confirmed for the 2012 Mayor's Voice of the Customer Meetings. The time of each evening is from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Edgerton Community Center, Monday **March 26**

Adams Street Community Center, Wednesday **March 28**

Lake Riley Lodge in Cobbs Hill Park, 100 Norris Drive, Tuesday, **April 3**

Thank You Gazebo Park Volunteers

continued from page 3

and Kathy Meeh of Berwick Rd., Sue Lennon, Beresford Rd., Henry and Laura Viau and Jay Quetschenbach, Elmcroft Rd., Gail Gucker, John Smith, and Marilyn Parchus, of E. Main St., Carol Boshears, Browncroft Blvd., Jim and Mary Coffey, Corwin Rd., Elsie Cleary, Carling Rd., Wayne Brockman, Penfield, Richard Pavone, Wilsonia Rd., Dinah Baumel, formerly of E. Main St., U of R students, and children from Humboldt Rec Center. Also thanks to city employees: Jim Farr, Terry McIntee, Loretta Scott and others. And a Big Thank You to our NYS Assemblyman Joe Morelle who assisted North Winton Village in obtaining the neighborhood initiative grant to obtain the gazebo and the special perennials to enhance the gazebo. Thank you, thank you to all who help in one way or another!

---Marilyn Schutte
Co-Chairperson NWVA

Save the Dates

April 17th, 7:30 p.m. -

Browncroft Historical Slide Show
Brighton Town Hall

April 18th, 7:15 p.m. -

BNA Board Meeting
Winton Road Library

April 23rd, 6:30 p.m. -

Police Forum
St John the Evangelist Church

April 28th, 9:00 a.m.

Monroe County Pickup the Parks, Various Monroe County parks, www.monroecounty.gov/File/PUTP2012.pdf

May 12th - City Clean Sweep
Southeast Quadrant - Cobbs Hill Park

May 24th - 7:30 p.m. BNA Annual Meeting at St. John the Evangelist Church Hall

Nextdoor.com

continued from page 4

email invite from an existing member signed on to the site. This latter verification is based on the sender's knowledge of the recipient's address as being in Browncroft's set geographic boundaries. If interested, email me for a personal invite at rgenthner@browncroftna.org.

Consider signing on to this Nextdoor.com Browncroft neighborhood opportunity.

You can visit the BNA web site for further information and all the details: <http://www.browncroftna.org/nextdoor>

--- Bob Genthner, Nextdoor Browncroft Lead

(BNA has not created Nextdoor.com and is not responsible for its current or future rules of privacy or management, or any agreement entered into by and between its creators and subscribers.)

BNA WINTER GATHERING

MERCHANT AND NEIGHBOR DONATIONS

This year BNA merchants and neighbors were very generous with their door prize donations which created a true sense of community at our winter event.

The Browncroft Neighborhood Association thanks you for your support and generosity:

Merchants

Ravioli Shop
Soulstice
Balsam Bagels
Julians Dry Cleaners
Empire Liquor
Winfield Grill
Mayer Hardware
Jim's Restaurant
China Kitchen
Luvaboos
Bay and Goodman Pizza
Midtown Athletic
The Brighton
Captain Jim's
Wintonaire
Rizzi's
Liberty Family Restaurant
WXXI

Neighbors

Ivan Lennon
Beresford Road
Frank Liberti
Browncroft Blvd.
Linda Siple
Ramsey Park



Aaron Thompson and Jim Bishop
picking the winners

WINTON LIBRARY CORNER



Juvenile Programs

Children's Film Festival, Tuesday, April 10th from 11:15 am – 12:15 pm and Friday, April 27th from 3:00 – 4:00 pm. No registration required.

Game Day- Numbers League. Wednesday April 11th from 2:00 – 3:00 pm. Grades 3-6. Registration requested.

Tail Waggin' Tutors, Saturday, April 14th. Children can read to a certified therapy dog. Call library for start time. Registration requested.

Young Adult

Henna program. Saturday, April 28. 12 – 1:30. Registration requested. Grades 8-12.

Adult

Book Group. Monday, April 2nd 7:00 p.m. "The Paris Wife" by Paula McLain

Lunchtime Book Club. Friday, April 13, 12:15 – 1:15, Lunch Time title is "The Paris Wife". The second title is optional but is related to The Paris Wife and that title is "A Moveable Feast" by Hemingway.

Movie night. Monday, April 30th. "Midnight in Paris".

Please call the library at 428-8204 for more information.

Correction of October 2011 Crier article on Fire Extinguishers, per Fire Capt Speck:

"If a fire starts: get out of the building, call 911 first, before using any extinguishers, hoses, etc."

Crier Volunteers

Cassandra Petsos - Layout/Publishing
Arline Liberti - Proofing/Editing
Contributors - As noted