



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973 - Volume # 187

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

Spring 2016

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

Inside This Issue

Street Lights

Browncroft Markers

Garden Tour

Winton Road Work

Movie in the Park

Winter Gathering

BOYW Magnets

BNA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, May 18th

7:00 - 8:30p.m.

Faith to Faith Fellowship Church

(319 Browncroft Blvd., corner of Fairhaven Rd.)

Guest Speaker: Sharon Bloemendaal (with Jack Bloemendaal assisting) will show the Browncroft history slide show *"Browncroft, a Beautiful Section of a Beautiful City"*

Can 400 slides be shown in one hour? Time us, as dual projectors are used with vintage slides showing photographs both historic and contemporary. The slides will show the Charles Brown family, the Brown Brothers Nursery, and the homes, transportation, parks, and beauty of the area.

The annual election of BNA officers for the 2016-2017 year will be held.

Attendees will be able to get the latest information on BNA activities and meet neighbors while enjoying refreshments.



Looking east on Corwin Rd. from Winton Rd c1914 and now.

Don't miss this opportunity to glimpse the photo history collection.



BROWNCROFT STREET LIGHT UPDATES:

Windemere Rd in Brighton Working to Get Vintage Lights

Prior to construction of the streetlight improvements in the Rochester-section of our Browncroft neighborhood, inquiries were made with the Town of Brighton to expand the scope to include the Brighton portions of Corwin, Windemere and Dorchester.

This project required property-owner approval to establish a new tax district to cover the costs. Although not unanimous, only Windemere had sufficient owner interest to consider a project.

A project of smaller scope including only Windemere was then considered. In March of this year, the Town of Brighton completed cost estimates to extend lighting (of the same design) from the city-line to the corner of Windemere and Fairhaven.

The next step is the communication of these costs in the form of a petition to the Brighton/Windemere property owners for their notarized approval. The petitions will be distributed to these owners in April. By Mid-May it will be determined if there is sufficient interest to proceed.

A progress update will be provided in the next issue of the Crier.

Bob Scheidt
Windemere Street
Rep. & BNA V.P.



Windemere Rd looking east from Brighton Line. Note last street light near sign.

City Street Light Special Assessment Amount Less Than Projected

Dear Neighbors on streets with concrete street lights:

We recently received notification that City Council has approved the street light assessment amount.

According to Ned Kelley of the Department of Environmental Services, the cost of the custom street lights is \$9,508.99 per year for 15 years. Which means the total cost that the 387 properties will be assessed in the 2017 tax year is \$9,508.99.

The 387 properties total front footage is 30,151 feet. Therefore, the total cost (dollars) divided by the total front footage determines the cost per foot -- or \$9,508.99

divided by 30,151 which comes to 32 cents per foot.

For example: A property with 60 feet of frontage will be assessed \$19.20 (per foot rate multiplied by footage) per year for 15 years.

This is great news in that we were quoted closer to 84 cents per foot when the petitions were circulated! So, time and technology have been on our side!

If you have any questions or concerns contact Ned Kelley at KelleyN@cityofrochester.gov or 428-1297

Linda Siple, BNA President

WINTON ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Neighbors should be seeing the completion of the reconstruction of N. Winton Rd. from Blossom to Corwin by October of this year. It's been two years of bumpy rides over this road while we watched utility work being done.

At the March 16th public information meeting held by the City of Rochester Engineer -- with the field engineers and the construction project manager present -- neighbors were informed that this season we will see water main installation from Humboldt to Corwin Rd., as well as new conduit for the new street lights.

There will be new sidewalks, curbs, bus stops with pads, new bike racks and some new benches. Trees will be planted along the street with flowering bulbs added to replace those that were displaced. The intersection on Winton where Humboldt and

continued on page 4

Be On Your Way With BNA

The BNA BOYW committee would like to remind Browncroft residents that this valuable service is still available to anyone who needs a ride to medical appointments and for necessary errands by calling **733-4386**. Volunteer drivers are available to help -- at no charge -- those unable to drive themselves.

Attached to this newsletter is a magnet to keep handy on your refrigerator or message board with contact information.

MORE BROWNCROFT SIGN POSTS????

There is a committee working on developing a grant proposal to seek monies for the purpose of creating a mold of the Browncroft Subdivision sign posts.

These cast iron obelisk posts with "Browncroft" stamped vertically down the pole held the original street name signs from a wrought iron bracket.

The neighborhood currently has four original posts still standing, albeit sans the wrought iron sign bracket. They are located at the corners of Corwin Rd./Ramsey Pk., Newcastle Rd./Windemere Rd., Dorchester Rd./Gramercy Pk., and Beresford Rd./Blossom Rd.

The board is hoping to make replicas so as to place more at locations they would have historically been within the Browncroft Subdivision.

Once the mold is created, "clones" can then be manufactured. Currently, the committee is researching potential grant sources.



An Exclusive Browncroft Garden Walk

All of us enjoy seeing the lovely front yards of Browncroft homes. Now we have the opportunity to study the fascinating flora in the side yards, backyards and/or porches.

Save the date of Sunday, June 26 for the first BNA Garden Walk. Hours are 12:30-4:30 p.m. This year it is only for Browncroft Neighborhood residents and their friends. Look for pastel balloons in front of participating homes.

Meet at the Rose Garden for a flyer with a neighborhood map and descriptions of the gardens. We will need volunteers to staff this table.

The event is free, but an optional donation will benefit BNA Beautification Committee projects.

This is also a convenient place to pay your \$10 BNA dues, if you so choose.

We hope to have 15 homes on this tour. We appreciate volunteers and recommendations for gardens to tour.

If you would like your garden to be on the tour please contact the committee by May 20: Sharon Bloemendaal, 288-6359, jbloem@rochester.rr.com or Jim Nicholson at jrn1884@frontier.net, or Jane Zimmet at janezimmet@yahoo.com

To receive the Garden Walk flyer by e-mail, contact a committee member. This will be available a day or two before the Garden Walk.

Sharon Bloemendaal
(See Garden Tour sign up on page 5.)



Winton Rd.

continued from page 3

Juniper Streets are located will be re-aligned to take out the jog, and there will be new signal lights installed, as well as a rain garden to handle excess rain water runoff.

The plan during reconstruction is to keep Winton Road open to two way traffic (at all times) by milling and paving one side of the roadway at a time, and by using a flag person to control the traffic pattern.

The road width will not change. No official area detours are planned. During some of the curb and driveway apron work there may be restricted access for property owners.

There will be some changes to parking regulations once the roadwork is completed. Parking will be allowed on the eastside of Winton from Blossom to Corwin. The east side will have a shared bicycle lane and some new bump-outs are planned. There is a designated 5 foot bicycle lane on the west side of Winton from Corwin to Woodlawn Street (south bound) with no parking allowed in this stretch. There are some planned changes to the parking on the west side of Winton from Woodlawn, south bound.

Holly Petsos

Aldi Development Update

As of the date of publication the decision of Supreme Court Judge Stander in the matter of Tops Markets, etal vs. The City of Rochester has not been printed, but is expected to be available soon.

The information will go out on BNA Announce.

Browncroft Neighborhood Association

GARDEN WALK 2016 Sign-Up

We appreciate your help with the first BNA Garden Walk, set for Sunday, June 26, 2016, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to:

___ Man the table at the Rose Garden to hand out the map/flyers and to receive any donations (a 2-hour shift)

___ Set up a dining canopy and provide a table and chairs for the volunteers

Gardens to tour:

___ I am willing to have visitors tour my garden

Please check the areas they may tour (check all that apply)

___ back yard ___ front yard ___ side yard ___ porch

Describe your garden, special features, or unusual plants.

(To see how homeowners in Buffalo show their gardens, see Garden Walk Buffalo.com)

Special tour: For those planning to offer their gardens to tour, a Pre-Tour is set for Saturday, June 25 from 6 to 8 p.m. This enables the hosts to see the other gardens, yet remain at home on Sunday to answer questions from visitors.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Thank you for your help.

Please return this form by May 20 to Sharon Bloemendaal, 82 Quentin Rd., 288-6359, jbloem@rochester.rr.com, Or Jane Zimmet, 288-6359, or Jim Nicholson, jrn 1884@frontier.com

46 SCHOOL WINDOW RESTORATION AND OTHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



This summer the 46 School capital improvements continue. BNA has been working with the Rochester City School District, the Landmark Society of Western NY and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to ensure that the historic integrity of the building is respected as the scope of the project is performed.

Originally the RCSD intended to replace all of the building's windows with aluminum double glazed near-replicas. A compromise was negotiated to save and repair the original wooden windows on the street facing facades of the building three years ago, and install aluminum on the back eastern facade only.

The aluminum replacement windows were installed in 2015 and the RCSD again proposed in the fall to replace, rather than restore as promised the wooden windows. Discussions resumed, and again we remained adamant that the historic fabric of the building be preserved, and that there was no cost ef-

fective or safety reasons to replace the Newcastle windows.

Steve Jordan, Rochester's premiere window restoration expert, also met with the RCSD's architectural firm and eloquently made the case for not wasting tax payers' dollars by replacing good windows capable of lasting another 100 years with inferior ones that would need replacing



within 20 years. His inspection report indicated that the windows were in excellent condition.

Therefore, the work to paint, rather than replace, the original existing windows on the west and south facades on the outside, strip the paint (only one coat) from the inside, and fix the sash cords will begin as soon as this school year ends.

Additionally, the nursery rhyme themed panes in the library windows will be given protection. The work will be executed by a Buffalo firm. Also planned is some slate roof repair and reroofing of the kindergarten wing.

Cassy Petsos

CRIME

This summer be proactive in preventing crime. Please remember to put your lights on timers if you know you will be away. Summer is a time when many neighbors take off for cottages or vacations. A dark house is a good indication that no one is home and a good target for crime.

Close and lock your garage doors. An empty garage is a red flag to criminals that no one is home. Remember to lock your car doors whether you park in the garage, in the driveway or on the street. Last summer we saw a number of car and bicycle burglaries. Most due to the fact neighbors left car doors unlocked.

Holly Petsos

Volunteers Needed

On **Saturday, April 30th** between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. the BNA will be doing its annual **Browncroft Rose Garden Spring clean-up**.

We need many volunteers to help with raking, pruning, bagging debris and spreading mulch. This is an important annual volunteer activity that BNA has performed in this highly visible garden park for 44 years. This type of commitment can only continue with the participation of new neighbors coming on board to work with old neighbors.

The clean-up time will be 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. But any amount of time you can give will help.

Wear long sleeves, hats and boots; bring water, clippers, loppers, kneeling pads, rakes, hand spades and/or weed diggers.

The rain date will be May 7th same time.

History Walking Tour of Browncroft Area Coming Soon

The BNA has been working on developing a new and improved walking tour pamphlet of the neighborhood.

The brochure will include a map and numbered tour stops with descriptions. The final document will be distributed to the neighborhood, to new neighbors in the new neighbor packets; and a supply will be given to the Winton Road Library.

The expected distribution date will be in the fall. In the meantime, walk the neighborhood and appreciate the historic landscape in spring. With the tree lawns blooming with magnolia, wisteria, spirea, and viburnum it is like the homes have been "placed in a big park" (Browncroft Realty Corp. ad).

Calendar of Events

BNA Board Meeting –
Wednesday April 20, 7:00-8:30,
Faith to Faith Church

Rose Garden Clean up –
Saturday April 30, 10-2:00

BNA Annual Meeting - History
Slide Show May 18,

BNA Garden Tour – Sunday
June 26, 12:30-4:30

BNA Picnic – Ellison Park
– Wednesday July 20, 6:00-8:00

Movie in the Rose Garden
– Summer TBA

Winter Gathering

On Friday, January 22 the BNA hosted once again the Winter Gathering. There were 60 neighbors in attendance from all 17 streets.

Neighbors enjoyed a buffet dinner at Glendoveer's Party House. There was a 50/50 drawing that yielded \$135 for both a lucky neighbor and the School 46 - Positive Behavior Fund.



Allen and Joan Hopkins and Ann Weintraub

Linda Siple



MOVIE NIGHT

This year, again, the BNA will be offering a movie night in the Browncroft Rose Garden. It's the perfect opportunity for the entire family to get out and see a great movie under the stars in our centerpiece park.

The movie is scheduled for the middle of August, starting at sunset. The exact date and movie will be announced in the next newsletter. Be sure to look for the details and come and enjoy the fun.

Jim Nicholson

How to Dispose of Unused Medication

The safest way to dispose of your medications is through a community drug take-back program. Watch for announcements of these programs. Wegmans, CVS, Walgreens and other pharmacies offer this service several times a year. Call for dates and times.

Most medicines can be thrown in the household trash. Remove them from their original containers and mix with something like used coffee grounds or kitty litter to make them less appealing to pets and children. Seal the mixture in a bag and place in the trash.

Protect your privacy and scratch out the label to make it unreadable.

Monroe County accepts unwanted medications. See www2.monroecounty.gov/des-PharmaceuticalWasteDisposal.php for locations and times.

Linda Siple