



Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973 - Volume #202

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

Summer 2020

BNA Executive Committee Acting Officers:

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Covid 19

The Browncroft Neighborhood Association may have seemed missing in action since January, but carrying on from a distance proved too difficult when the City of Rochester and the Monroe County Department of Health mandated no group gatherings. Hence there was no May Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, no official spring clean-up in the Browncroft Rose Garden, and no official Browncroft Garden Tour.

Clearly neighbors carried on during the mandated stay-at-home period. The neighborhood is a pleasant place to be in the spring and summer, and never before did one see so many kids and adults out and about in the fresh air. The area parks were also favorite hangouts allowing people to do things outside the home in a socially distanced way. Hopefully, this experience has reminded everyone of the value of parks and green space, the beauty of the neighborhood, and the ability to walk on interconnecting streets with sidewalks to the open spaces without having to leave a cul-de-sac and walk on a highway to another cul-de-sac or school playground.

The Browncroft Neighborhood Association is hopeful that all of our neighbors have been well, and continue to be so.



Thank you to our unknown chalk artist

BOOKS FOR SCHOOL #46

For the past four years the Browncroft Neighborhood has donated new books for the kindergarten students at #46 School. Although the schools will have virtual instruction for at least 10 weeks we are continuing this project as this is one way that we can demonstrate our support for the students.

The books are gift wrapped and include a card indicating that they are a welcome gift from our neighborhood. The children love receiving these new books! We will be collecting new paperback and/or hardcover books, appropriate for early readers, or financial contributions to purchase books beginning August 1st.

Donations can be dropped off at 175 Dorchester Rd. with a note indicating that they are for #46 School students; or you can call Ann Kanthor at 482-0704 for pick-up.

If there are additional funds, school supplies will be purchased for the school. Thank you for your continuing support!

Ann Kanthor, Hakanthor1@outlook.com



September 2019

LIBRARY REOPENS

The Winton Branch Library is open for curbside pickup.

Call us from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at 428-8204; or email WinCir01@libraryweb.org (that's zero one) and arrange for an appointment to pick up material.

We fervently hope to be open for in-person service by the middle of August; some services and hours may have to be curtailed. We are trying to work out the details.

Please use the book drops to return library material (sorry, we can't take donations at this time). Because of the virus, returned material must be isolated for three days before it can be discharged from peoples' records, so it may look like it hasn't yet been returned to the library. We are backdating material so that overdue fines are not incurred.

Give us a call! We look forward to seeing you!

Kathy Wolf

GARDEN WALK DOWNSIZES



Day Lily Garden on Hillside Drive

The Browncroft Garden Walk committee did not plan any grand tour this year due to the Corona Virus. However, some pop-up events are occasionally happening, with masks and social distancing.

A few people toured two gardens on July 27th, and also learned of a daylily garden on Hillside Avenue open to visitors on two weekends. The informal tour on

July 27 included a formal garden and a casual one with flowers, fruits and vegetables.

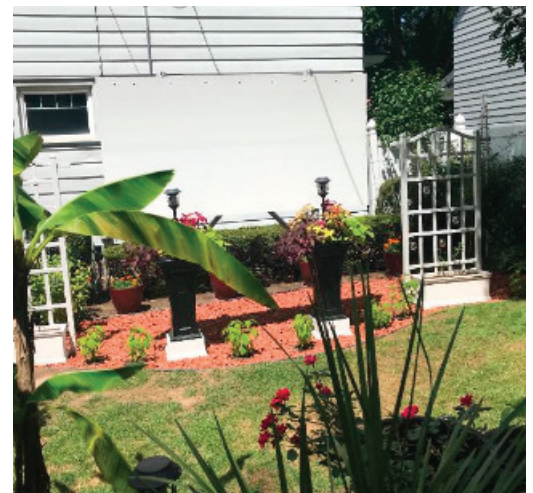
Both hosts and visitors learned things. For instance

who knew that the climbing tendrils of grape vines taste rather like pickles? Or that purslane is an edible and nutritious weed? This is the summer for gardening, as we have more time to spend tending our lovely landscaping.

Contact James Seitz at JamesfSeitz@gmail.com to receive email notifications if you are interested in know-

ing of any additional opportunities to visit open gardens.

Sharon Bloemendaal



Thomas Graham's garden, Elm Drive

CONGRATULATIONS TO BROWNCROFT'S 2020 GRADUATES!

HIGH SCHOOL



Max Chew
Yarmouth Road
McQuaid Jesuit High School.



William Hourihan
Corwin Road
McQuaid High School
He is headed to NYU film school



Staryn L. Jones.
Quentin Rd.
Brighton High School



Ann Paige
Windemere Rd
Penfield High
Will attend Morgan State
University pending COVID-19



Allison Purcell
Croydon Road
Our Lady of Mercy School for
Young Women



Joey Schmidt
North Winton Road
World of Inquiry High School,
National Honor Society Scholar



Maurice Tindal
Elmcroft Road
East High School

COLLEGE



Noah Quinn LaRussa-Trott
Croydon Road
Clarkson University



Jacob Purcell
Croydon Road
St. Joseph's University

WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT FROM THE CITY?

Many people do not know that the city of Rochester, like other municipalities, requires that a property owner obtains a permit before making major repairs or changes to their house or building.



Many contractors do not advise the homeowner of this upfront. Given that failure to obtain a permit can lead to unnecessary fines, costs and delays in a project, and given that we have many newer neighbors, the BNA Board felt the Crier should reprint and update this article.

The following is a partial list covering the most common permits:

Additions and alterations, antennas, fences, plumbing, tents and canopies, awnings, pools, siding, windows and doors (increasing and decreasing size or adding and removing), decks, ramps, demolitions, new electrical work outside and inside, roofs, garages and carports, sheds, vehicle storage, water and sewer lines, new installation of heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems not in like-kind replacement and porch alterations involving structural elements.

For a complete list of work needing a permit, and charts detailing the cost of the permits, which can be dependent on specific work and the total cost of the project, go to cityofrochester.gov/permit/.

Note: There is a paragraph at the bottom of the permit page setting forth that a property which is located in a Preservation District or that is a designated building of historic value, may require a Certificate of Appropriateness. Browncroft Historic District listed properties are in that category.

The permit office is located in Room 121B, City Hall, 30 Church Street.

The office can be reached by phone at 428-6526.

Also, remember to check the page on the site labeled "work not requiring a permit". There is overlapping with the lists so you need to read the details, which in some cases recite percentages of what is being repaired or replaced.

Holly Petsos

WINTON RD & BLOSSOM NEW PROPOSAL



View from the east heading north on Winton Rd

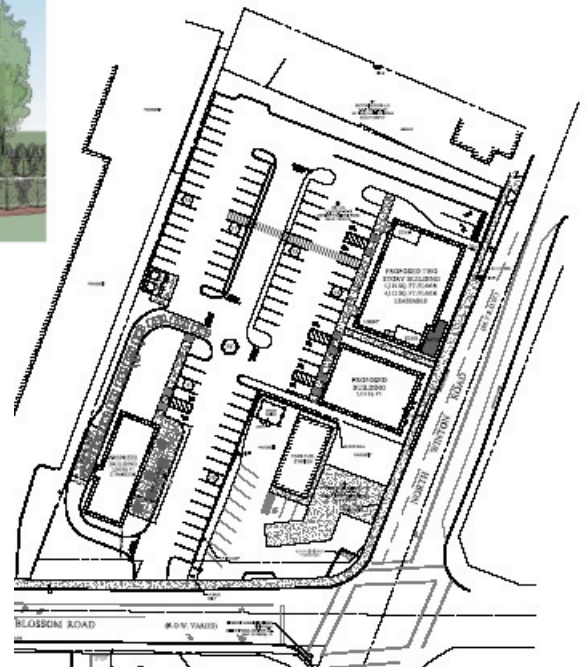


View from north east heading south on Winton

proposed building set-back from Winton Road is 10 feet rather than the regulation 5 feet, and the other is for the drive-through element of the third building toward the back of the lot, which is expected to be a coffee house. There is no conceptual drawing of that building, but its footprint can be seen on the site

plan shown here.

The consensus of the BNA Board by emails was a general acceptance. Therefore, Peter Easterly, Acting BNA President, will prepare a letter for the developers accordingly.



Robert Fallone has a new partner, Matt Nester of Caliber Commercial Real Estate, in the development of the empty parcel near the corner of Winton and Blossom Roads.

Representatives of BNA and North Winton Village were given a peek at the concept plans on August 5th in preparation for City of Rochester Zoning Board approval. Two variances must be granted before the project can go forward — one regarding the

LET'S GET SHADY

— *More new tree babies showed up this spring*

In our tradition to recognize Browncroft homeowners who keep the Brown Brothers historic landscape preserved by planting new trees when original ones are lost, this June eight more Browncroft property owners planted new trees in the manner of the original Browncroft historic landscape with shade trees placed 6 feet to the inside of the city sidewalk, leaving the space between the curb and the city

sidewalk for flowering trees (magnolia) and shrubs.

Because the traditional shade tree line is on private property, these property owners took on the expense to replace the historic trees - now 100 years old - lost in recent years.

Ten trees were planted as part of a group of neigh-

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The usual fall membership drive was cancelled in 2019 to return to conducting dues collection in the spring to conform with the BNA fiscal year cycle from June to May, and the Annual May Membership Meeting. Spring came along with the Covid-19 crisis. There have been no BNA activities. BNA will continue to adjust to the times, and it was decided by the first BNA Board meeting held July 14th by Zoom to call for 2020-2021 membership participation. Therefore, the 2020 Membership Drive kicks off with this issue of the *Browncroft Crier*.

A few words about the importance of membership in the Browncroft Neighborhood Association. Your membership provides support that enables us as a neighborhood to more effectively communicate important news affecting the neighborhood to our residents, and to communicate our concerns about our neighborhood to local governments and organizations. City and County services can be accessed more efficiently and effectively.

In normal times the BNA organizes volunteers to do beautification work in our neighborhood park, the Browncroft Rose Garden; publishes the *Crier* newsletter; attends to zoning issues affecting properties within its borders and on its boundary lines; communicates with the Rochester City Police, County Sheriff and even the State police on issues affecting crime or quality of life; and runs three much anticipated events -- the Winter Gathering, an annual picnic and the Biennial Garage Sale. Through your membership in the Browncroft Neighborhood Association you help continue the efforts of your neighbors to build a cohesive, concerned and safer community.

Please consider joining. Annual dues are \$10 and can be paid by check and by completing this page of the newsletter, which can be detached and mailed with your check to the Browncroft Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 10127, Rochester, New York 14610.

PLEASE NOTE: if you wish to receive announcements of important information or meetings, include your email address and check the box to subscribe to BNA Announce, giving BNA permission to send you emails. It is also a good way to get the virtual *Crier* hot off the press until the hard copy arrives by delivery, or if the Board decides to cease hard copy issues of the *Crier* in the future.

LAST NAMES _____

FIRST NAMES OF
PERSONS 18 & OVER _____

ADDRESS _____

Zip +4 _____ PHONE (____) _____

NUMBER OF RESIDENTS age <18 _____ age 18-55 _____ age 55+ _____

EMAIL ADDRESS(s) _____

Do you wish to SUBSCRIBE or RENEW to the free BNA-Announce
emailing list: _____ YES (email address required) _____ NO

YES I would like to consider volunteer opportunities available with
the Browncroft Neighborhood Association. My area of interest is:

Enclosed is:

Annual Household
Membership Dues \$ _____

Additional Contribution
to be earmarked to this
activity: \$ _____

or to _____ General Fund

TOTAL \$ _____

Cash _____ or Check (No.) _____

Thank you for your membership.

Signs of the Times



Point of View -

Recreational Fires Not for Everyone

A campfire may be needed in a wilderness where you have no stove or heat, and you are miles from everyone else. But are campfires and fire pits advisable, or considerate, on a city or suburban property in warm weather just feet from your neighbors?

I do not have or care for air-conditioning. I close my windows in the morning on hot days to keep the heat out, THEN I open windows in the evening to let the cool breezes in.

Unfortunately, if someone has just lit a big fire in their back yard, I have to close the windows and swelter! I don't mind their fireplace in winter when windows are closed and block the smoke. However, in summer I have difficulty breathing smoke coming from a nearby yard when I am trying to

sleep. I even shut my windows if my neighbors light up cigarettes in their back yard.

Please refrain from smoking tobacco or wood! The wind blows where it will, and it seems to like my windows!

P.S. Your lungs will thank you, too.

—Sharon Bloemendaal

Editor's note: According to the Rochester City Code Section 120-164 regarding air quality "...no use or structure shall emit smoke, dust, heat or heated air, noxious odors, odorous gases or other matter in such quantities as to be readily discernible on neighboring property and detrimental to the use and enjoyment of such neighboring property."

46 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION WORK

The work that has been underway this summer at School #46 includes:

- Expansion of the parking lot off Dorchester Road with 39 new parking spaces and landscaping with maple trees along the sidewalk and spruce trees near the parking area curb.
- Handicapped ramps in the main entrance and Dorchester Road entrance vestibules.
- New and safer elevator doors
- Remodeling of the offices behind the auditorium stage.

Cassy Petsos

BROWNCROFT HISTORIC DISTRICT HOMEOWNERS SAVE MONEY - *New York State Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit*

Residents living in the Browncroft Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places need to be aware of the substantial tax benefit of this listing through the NY State Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Credit. Within the last year, sixteen Browncroft homeowners took advantage of this tax credit, according to Virginia Bartos, Historic Preservation Program Analyst with the Division of Historic Preservation (SHPO) of the NY State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Rehabilitation of historic residential buildings may qualify for a New York State tax incentive. The Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Credit program offers a state income tax credit equal to 20% up to a credit value of \$50,000 per year of qualified rehabilitation expenses associated with repair, maintenance, and upgrades to historic homes. The value of the credit is applied to your NYS tax liability to reduce the amount you owe. For more information please review the program's qualifications and FAQs below, or call Division staff at 518-237-8643 and request to speak to the staff member who handles your county.

Qualifications:

1. The applicant must own and live in the house.
2. The house must be listed in the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places individually or as a contributing building in a listed Historic District. Note: In some cases, a local historic district has been certified to

participate in tax credit programing.

3. The house must be located in a qualifying census tract. [Note: all the census tracts in the City of Rochester qualify with the income limitations.]

4. The rehabilitation expenses must be \$5,000 or more with a minimum of 5% of that being spent on exterior work.

5. All projects must be approved before work begins.

Typical projects that qualify include but are not limited to repairs to walls, masonry, finishes (interior and exterior, excluding artificial siding and vinyl windows), floors, ceilings, windows and doors, chimneys, stairs (interior and exterior), roofs, components of central air conditioning or heating systems, plumbing and plumbing fixtures, electrical wiring and lighting fixtures.

Projects that do not qualify are projects such as landscaping, fencing, additions or other work outside the historic building, generally; and of course projects that are inconsistent or deleterious to the historic architecture of the house.

According to M. Patrick Phillips of Beresford Road "Utilizing the NYS historic tax credit was surprisingly easy and our local liaison was wonderful to work with. It allowed us the opportunity to accelerate our restorations"

Isaac Bracher of Corwin Road said "SHPO makes the entire application process so simple. It couldn't be easier – the 20% tax credit is received in the spring in

the form of a tax refund check. I would recommend it to anyone living in a New York State Historic District. I'm planning to take advantage of the program again for the 2020 tax year."

Instructions & Application Forms can be found at <https://parks.ny.gov/shpo/tax-credit-programs/>
Cassy Petsos

Shady

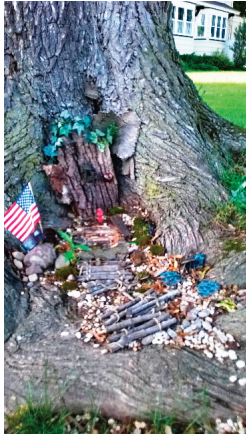
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bors working on a Reforest Historic Browncroft project - on Corwin (7) and Newcastle (3). Three more trees were planted by individual neighbors on Corwin Road.

Neighbors contributing to the preservation of the historic landscape of Browncroft, and providing shade for all walkers were: Isaac Bracher, Marilyn Schutte, Larry Scheerens, Mary and Jim Coffey, Dede and Rick Ranger, Anthony and Stella Nozzi, Robert and Erica Wendler, Emily and Craig Hoffman, and Anna and Nathan Pensgen. Also, a thanks goes to James Patterson, on Corwin for helping to keep his neighbors young tree watered.



Elves and Fairies among us?



Patriotic Little People



Climb up



So small they need a ladder to get up a root.

It seems a lot of new residents are making Browncroft their home, judging by the number of little doors showing up in our old trees. And why not? The old shady trees, lilies of the valley, wisteria and ivy provide a magical place to take up residence!



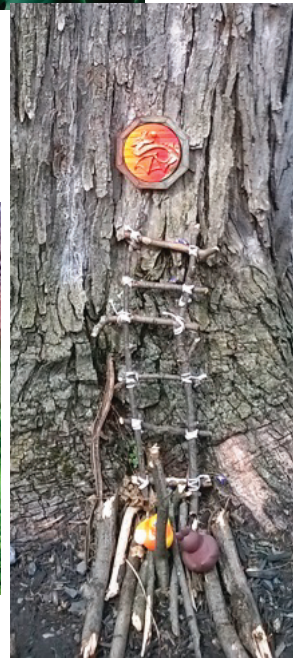
Life among lilies of the valley must be sweet



Fairy landscaping



Home Sweet Home



Exotic little folk live here.



Fairies and Elves love daffodils and moss



Fairies renting out?



Fairy Townhouses?



Wisteria Lane address



Psychedolics are back