



# Browncroft Crier

NEWSLETTER OF THE BROWNCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SINCE 1973 - Volume #206

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

Spring 2022

## **BNA Executive Committee**

### **Officers:**

President  
Cassy Petsos  
Vice-President  
To Be Approved  
Secretary  
Jim Davis  
Treasurer  
John McQueen

### **District Reps**

Elm  
James Nicholson  
Corwin  
Holly Petsos  
Croydon  
David D. Kaiser

### **BNA Email:**

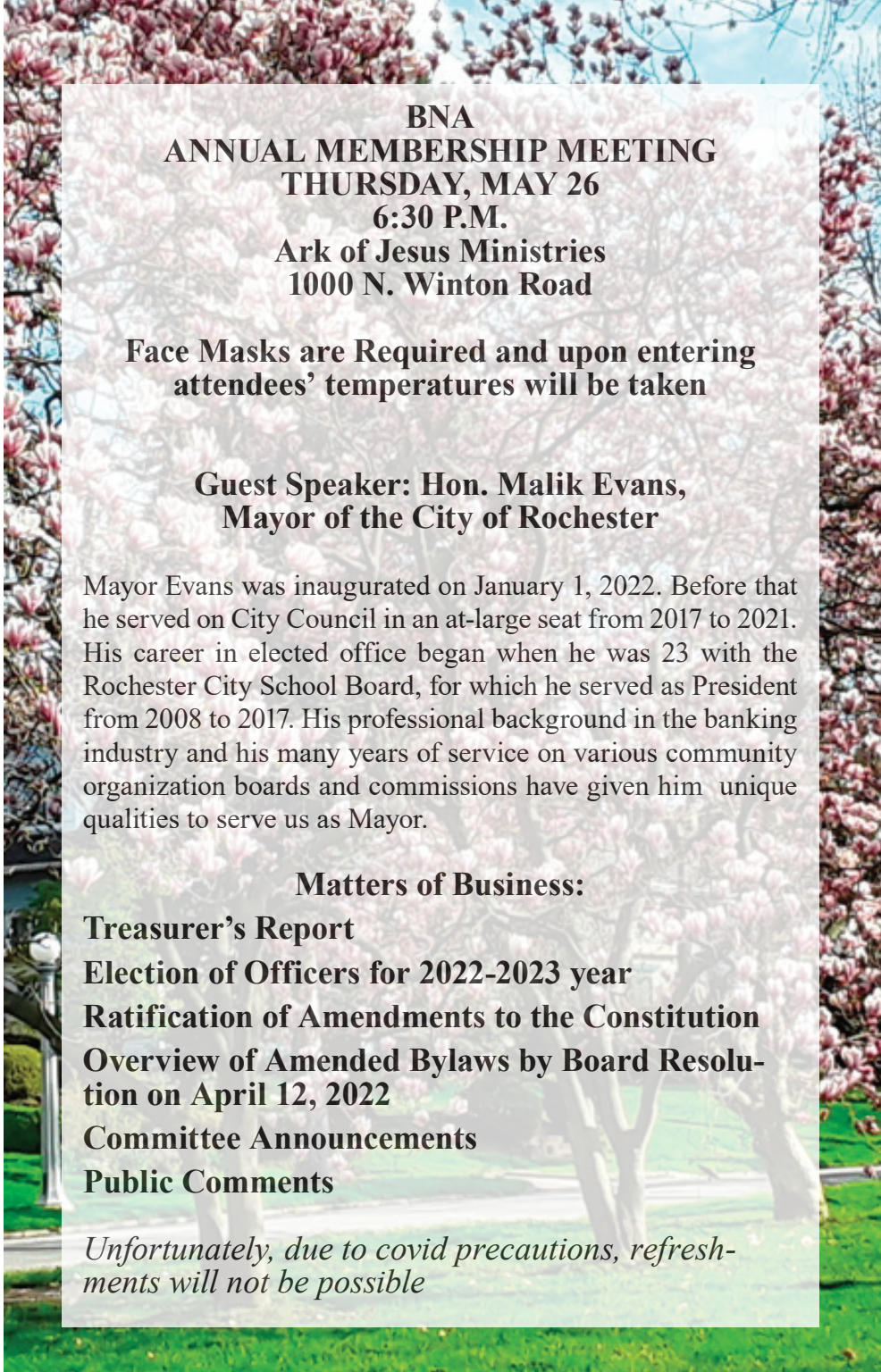
[contact@browncroftna.org](mailto:contact@browncroftna.org)

### **Crier Editor -**

Cassy Petsos

### **Inside This Issue**

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**BNA  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 26  
6:30 P.M.  
Ark of Jesus Ministries  
1000 N. Winton Road**

**Face Masks are Required and upon entering attendees' temperatures will be taken**

**Guest Speaker: Hon. Malik Evans,  
Mayor of the City of Rochester**

Mayor Evans was inaugurated on January 1, 2022. Before that he served on City Council in an at-large seat from 2017 to 2021. His career in elected office began when he was 23 with the Rochester City School Board, for which he served as President from 2008 to 2017. His professional background in the banking industry and his many years of service on various community organization boards and commissions have given him unique qualities to serve us as Mayor.

### **Matters of Business:**

**Treasurer's Report  
Election of Officers for 2022-2023 year  
Ratification of Amendments to the Constitution  
Overview of Amended Bylaws by Board Resolution on April 12, 2022  
Committee Announcements  
Public Comments**

*Unfortunately, due to covid precautions, refreshments will not be possible*

## *From the President.....*Cassy Petsos

Over the past year BNA has continued to perform its role in looking out for the neighborhood and the community at large. Board Meetings continued on schedule using a hybrid in-person and Zoom format in order to allow as many Board members as possible to be able to attend. However, we have had no in-person events where neighbors could have gathered to socialize, attend a lecture, or have a garage sale, as covid rates have been erratic, even after vaccinations became available in spring of 2021. Neighborhood health and safety, defined in the broadest sense, has been governing the Board's decision making.

However, BNA has not been inactive. Beautification work in the Rose Garden, Books for School #46, a Food Drive to benefit the community through Foodlink, updating the BNA Constitution and Bylaws, ongoing interaction with other neighborhood associations and the City of Rochester concerning the zoning code alignment/amendment, sponsoring of an architectural Zoom lecture, and STEM kit dona-

tions to School #46 have kept the association Board and volunteers busy.

The number of residents paying their membership dues was at the same level as in past years, as was the generous added donations that came in with the membership applications. Therefore, we thank all of our residents who are members and hope that when the 2022-2023 membership drive starts in June or July BNA can count on you to renew, and that more residents will join your ranks.

It seems the general public has opened up for business now, so BNA is going to hold an in-person Annual Membership Meeting. It is an important meeting our residents need to attend.

The Mayor of the City of Rochester, Malik Evans, will be our guest speaker. Additionally, the election of new officers and voting on the proposed amendments to the Constitution (See article explaining the changes.) will require a good attendance by the membership, in particular.

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## **BNA WANTS TO KNOW WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT BROWNCROFT!**

Delivered with this Crier is a survey with questions, both weighted and straight forward, for residents to fill in the blanks.

This survey will be helpful to BNA and to the City in understanding what residents like about this neighborhood; what they want to preserve; what changes might be acceptable within standard qualifications; and who are the various age groups that are currently served.

We would want everyone to participate by completing the survey and returning it per the instructions at the end. Subscribing with your name and address would be preferred, but if providing your address alone is more comfortable, it is acceptable. The important thing is for BNA to know what the actual residents want for the neighborhood.

Thank you for your help.

## **NOMINEES FOR BNA OFFICERS 2022-2023**

### **Frank Fields, President**

Frank and his wife Pat have lived in Browncroft for approximately 20 years, with their children, Brian, Caitlin, and Francis Joseph, who are all now out on their own.

Frank is wrapping up a long legal career as an attorney, having worked for both law firms and corporations. In his spare time, Frank has been very involved with his parish and the Boy Scouts.

Frank is looking forward to helping move the BNA forward as we come out of the pandemic.

### **Cassandra Petsos, Vice President**

"Cassy" has been the acting President this past year and is looking forward to continuing as an officer in the Vice-President position. She has lived in Browncroft her entire life and has been involved in neighborhood work most of that time as a member of BNA since its first year, working on beautification, traffic, zoning, historic preservation, and the newsletter. She says that Browncroft has been a wonderful neighborhood to grow up in, and she hopes the characteristics that made it that way will continue long into the future.

### **John McQueen, Treasurer**

John has graciously agreed to continue on as BNA Treasurer. He has done an exceptional job keeping the account and membership log up-to-date, providing the Board with financial statements, and keeping the bills paid. He and his wife, Kathy, have lived in Browncroft for 42 years and have loved it from the start. John says "The physical appeal of the neigh-

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# BNA AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

The BNA Board has been discussing amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws for approximately three years for the purpose of clarifying that the neighborhood association's boundaries extend into Brighton on Corwin, Windemere, and Dorchester, which inspired the creation of a graphically improved map for "Exhibit A". Membership dues were changed many years ago, but were not updated in the Bylaws. Also, since our Bylaws were drafted BNA has obtained liability insurance and officers and directors insurance to fortify the section that stated they were not personally liable. Electronic meeting procedure is another update for the times.

Amending the Constitution requires a 2/3 affirmative vote by at least 20% of the membership after being proposed by the Board of Directors, which is why this measure is on the Annual Meeting Agenda. Paid members will have received their copy before the meeting. Voting in person at the Annual Meeting or by mail-in vote (proxy) will be allowed.

The Bylaws can be amended by the Board of Directors and this was done by resolution at the April 12, 2022 meeting.

Below is a summary of the proposed changes for the Constitution and the amendments made to the Bylaws. The documents will be posted on the BNA website. Currently, they are separated until the proposed amended Constitution is passed.

## Constitution:

1. Article I, Section 2.  
– Purpose and boundary definition

to add a reference to the Town of Brighton and "as shown the map in Exhibit A"

2. Article VII, Section 3. Board members must affirm their intention to remain – not at the Annual Meeting- but at the 1st board meeting thereafter.

## ByLaws:

3. Article I, Section 1. Membership is open to residents only of the neighborhood. This has been the practice.

4. Article II, Section 1. Membership dues are updated to \$10, which is what they have been for many years, and a section was added (section 4) to give the Board the authority to change them as needed or appropriate, rather than requiring a cumbersome full amendment of the By-Laws every time.

5. Article III, Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4. Meeting notice advances were simplified from "7 to 15" to just say "a minimum of 7".

6. Article III, Section 3. If members petition (15 names required) for a special membership meeting, it has been added that BNA would send a notice to the membership of the meeting, as BNA has that ability, not the petitioners.

7. Article III, section 5 was added to account for electronic notices and virtual meetings, which were not available in 1985, the last time the Bylaws were amended.

8. Article V, "Duties of Officers and Street Reps" – a Section 7 was added to provide the Board with the power to remove an officer or street rep for failure to perform duties or for actions that

undermine the BNA mission.

9. Article VII, Section 3. The Budget and Finance Committee responsibilities section was simplified to represent the procedures actually practiced.

10. Article VII, Section 4. External committee correspondence, position statements or news releases previously only needed approval by the President. It was added "and by the Board or Executive Committee".

11. Article VII, Section 6. Officers and Directors Liability insurance added.



## THANK YOU ROSE GARDEN VOLUNTEERS

It was a sunny and cool day when volunteers worked Saturday, April 30th to prune and rake out the rose beds in the Browncroft Rose Garden. We're not done yet! Thank you Connie and Don Schmidt, Cara Paul, Patrick and Shalini Beath, Kathy Grady, Cassy and Holly Petsos.

May 7th, in conjunction with the City's Clean Sweep, volunteers will be working again to finish pruning, weeding, and raking.

The next work date in this garden park at the intersection of Browncroft Boulevard and Merchants Road will be to plant annuals in the circle bed. Please help out when the date is announced.

# ARCHITECTURAL LECTURE ON LEANDER MCCORD PRESENTATION

On March 31st BNA, with the assistance of the Landmark Society, was



pleased to organize a virtual lecture on Leander McCord, “Rochester’s Architect of the Roaring Twenties” It was presented on Zoom by Christopher Brandt, Project Architect at Bero Architecture. BNA publicized the event via BNA Announce and Browncroft Nextdoor.

Chris shared examples of McCord’s extensive work in our region of public, commercial and residential buildings including some two-dozen homes in Browncroft. The examples shown varied in architectural style and size. His lecture was packed with information that history and architecture enthusiasts found very enjoyable. Chris has given this lecture to another group in person at the Rochester Public Library, but he tailored it some-



what for Browncroft.

In order to attend Browncroft residents and other interested architecture buffs had to register through the Landmark Society’s website, and were emailed the Zoom link and passcode. Due to the tight scheduling between newsletters, everyone was made aware of the virtual



event via BNA Announce, and it was posted on Nextdoor, as well. One of the advantages of viewing the lecture electronically was being close up to the slides. Fifty nine people of the ninety nine who registered tuned in. Approximately thirty were Browncroft residents.



Thank you to the Landmark Society of Western New York, and specifically Caitlin

Meives, Director of Preservation, for their help in hosting and registering participants for the Zoom platform.

Here is a list of the Browncroft houses: 36, 193, 229 Corwin Road; 80, 114 Windemere Road; 57, 130, 194, 260, 270 Dorchester Road; 335, 381 Beresford Road; 143, 144, 154, 155, 164, 165, 174, 175 Croydon Road.

# FOOD DRIVE



Cassy Petsos, Ann Kanthor, Cara Paul, not shown Kathy Grady

The BNA Food and Sock Drive held on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, January 15th. was a major success thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our Browncroft Neighbors.

We donated over 771 lbs of non-perishable food to Foodlink which equates to 642 meals for neighbors in need. We also collected over 100 pairs of new socks which were donated to the House of Mercy..

Many thanks to everyone who donated and helped by delivering food to Foodlink, and a special thank you to True North Church for the use of their driveway for the convenient drop off.

The quantity of the food and the freezing cold weather created challenges for this project, but we plan to make this an annual event. If anyone is interested in planning a similar community service project please contact Ann Kanthor at [hakanthorl@outlook.com](mailto:hakanthorl@outlook.com).



## BNA GARDEN WALK RETURNS

Our BNA Garden Walk is set for Sunday, June 12, from noon to 4 p.m. Visit gorgeous gardens within our beautiful Browncroft Neighborhood. Tell your friends and neighbors about the free event. While we will not invite the general public, please invite all your friends and any garden aficionados you know. We visit about a dozen gardens. Maps will be distributed at the Rose Garden at the intersection of Browncroft Blvd. and Merchants Rd.

In the past we have seen fascinating water features, unusual species of plants, and clever arrangements of beautiful plantings.

We need gardens to tour! If you would like to participate, or can recommend a neighbor's garden, ask them to contact the committee members:

Jim Nicholson 585-482-1084

jr2800@frontier.com

Sharon Bloemendaal 585-288-

6359 jbloem@rochester.rr.com

Pop-up Tours

Each year the Garden Walk Committee also offers several "Pop-up" Garden tours of interesting gardens or areas. We have visited the "Secret Sidewalk," a daylily garden, a trail in Ellison Park, and the gardens behind the Unitarian Church on Winton Road, about 1/2 mile south of Rt. 490. Sign up with Jim or Sharon to receive impromptu email notifications of those and of other neighborhoods' garden walks open to the public.

Also check out NextDoor. under "Groups" click on "Browncroft Gardens" or "Plants/Gardens/Aquas." This is a place to ask questions, post photos, or find updates.

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## IS OUR TREE LEGACY VANISHING?

There are many neighborhoods in Rochester that, like Browncroft, were developed on subdivided nursery grounds at the turn of the 20th century and earlier. However, it was Browncroft that took the planned subdivision one step further. Though there are singular streets in Rochester with landscaped malls, only Brown Brothers Nursery planned and planted a detailed landscape comprised of shade trees, ornamental trees and shrubs on 10 streets when they developed the Browncroft Subdivision in 1914 to create a 300 acre park-like setting for home lots.

This information is not new to many of you, but it warrants repeating for our newer homeowners to

bring awareness to the beauty and comfort the Browncroft trees have provided to residents for over 100 years. And in this time of rising temperatures, polluted urban air, and urban noise we need our trees more than ever before.

This is a clarion call. The neighborhood canopy is in a steep decline. It is obvious to residents who have, until recent years, been able to walk under a solid green, cool leafy bower. Perhaps newer residents can imagine the once unbroken canopy and the majesty of the mature trees and join in the work to preserve what remains, and become dedicated to planting new trees back into the historic land-

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## NEW BOOKS FOR NEW STUDENTS - 2022



Through the generosity of Browncroft neighbors we have gifted new books to kindergarten students at #46 School for the past five years. We will continue this tradition in the fall of 2022 and the BNA Board has allocated financial support which will enable us to purchase the books. We are considering expanding this program to include providing a chapter book for 6th grade students as they leave #46 School to attend middle school. This is a future project that will require additional funding and would be developed for the spring of 2023. If you are interested in working on this project or other ways that the BNA can support the students at #46 School please feel free to contact Ann Kanthor at hakanthor1@outlook.com.

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## Officers

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neighborhood (beautiful homes, yards, streetlights, streetscape), the urban location and the friendliness of the neighbors make Browncroft the premier spot in the City. Our four children enjoyed where they lived and made lifelong friends here."

John, a lawyer, has been with Nixon Peabody since 1977.

### Sara Castro, Secretary

Sara will be new to the BNA Board, but not new to Browncroft. She notes: "This July marks 38 years since my husband Mel and I have lived on Beresford Rd. We have 3 children, of which two attended #46 School, and happy to say 7 grandchildren. Professionally,

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# BNA SUPPORTS “STEM” AT SCHOOL 46 - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

BNA has had a long-standing involvement with our local School 46, located at the corner of Dorchester and Newcastle. At the start of each school year, new stu-



dents are gifted books. Additionally, this year BNA gave support to the after-school science club by providing STEM kits, and bringing in people to work with the students.

The initial set of kits were gifted personally to the school by Jim Davis. Jim is our BNA secretary, and an electrical and optical engineer. He worked, with the students on “Circuit Blox”, which are lego-like blocks that can be assembled into electrical circuits. The students, with some assistance, built the first 10 experiments, and some students even went off script and created new and novel circuits with the set of blocks. On the last day of the program for the 2021-2022 school year, Dr. Chen Ding, a computer science professor from the University of Rochester attended the session and worked with the students to explain computers and how they are used to further science.

BNA has committed additional funding and purchased the following STEM kits for next years class.

- Playz Extreme Kids Chemistry Set - for kids Age 8-12

with 52+ experiments & 51+ tools (4 sets).

- Crystal Science Kit for Kids - for ages 8-14, arts & kraits kits - (2 sets)

- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Rocks & Fossils Kit – 200+ piece set includes geodes, real fossils, rose quartz, jasper, aventurine and more rocks, crystals and gemstones (2 sets)

- AmScope 120X-1200X 52 Peice Kids Beginner Microscope STEM Kit with metal body microscope, plastic slides, LED light (2 sets)

BNA is happy to have provided kits that support electrical engineering, chemistry, geology, and biology, and appreciate the opportunity that Dr. DiTullio the principal of school 46 provided to support the neighborhood and Rochester City School students. Special thanks to Marianne Dennis, the teacher who volunteered her time in the after school science program and helped BNA to get Jim Davis and Dr. Chen involved. Thanks to Dr. Chen for sharing his time and expertise.

## Officers

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I was a dental hygienist for 26 years, returning to college in my forties, then working as a Physician Assistant for 18 years at Unity Hospital. I retired two years ago to enjoy other interests; reading, hiking and traveling with friends.

We love city living, especially in our beautiful Browncroft neighborhood. So many conveniences: exceptional elementary school, public library, easily accessible bus route, restaurants, drug and grocery stores, banks, post office, hardware store and dry cleaners. All within walking distance! Not to mention the street lights, sidewalks and stunning magnolia trees that complement the beautiful architecture of our homes.

When asked ‘Do you think you’ll move to another home?’, my response is ‘Why would I relocate? I love it here!’

I am pleased and honored to serve as BNAs next secretary, and look forward to meeting some of you while serving this community I call home.”

## Trees

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scape.

The Democrat and Chronicle published a series of articles about Rochester’s trees on April 17th. You can find it at: <https://www.democratandchronicle.com/in-depth/news/2022/04/05/rochester-urban-tree-canopyreflects-deep-racial-and-social-divisions/9357541002/>. Subscribers have additional access to the article “How Some Neighborhoods Got So Green”, which mentions Browncroft.