

Contact: Sylvia Sherman
E-mail: ssherman.ban@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BRIARWOOD ACTION NETWORK BUILDS A STRONGER COMMUNITY ON PARK DAY

Briarwood, N.Y. May 12, 2014 – The spirit of community bloomed as beautifully as the daffodils at Hoover Park on May 3, 2014. On that Saturday, Briarwood Action Network (BAN) hosted It's My Park Day, a semi-annual event held in cooperation with Partnership for Parks. BAN members, other residents of Briarwood, and visitors from a variety of neighborhoods, came together and worked side by side as they raked leaves, painted park benches, and did general clean-up in the park.

Volunteers worked the entire expanse of the park, from the children's playground to beyond the basketball courts. This was BAN's sixth Park Day event, and as the breadth of the work has increased, so has the range of people attending. Representatives from the New York Fire Department, the local branch of the Kiwanis Club, Melrose Credit Union, nearby Friends of Maple Grove Cemetery, as well as the newly formed Friends of Briarwood library were all in attendance to provide information and lend their support. BAN secretary, Crystal Courts said, "It's great to see institutions from the community and people from the community together at an event for the betterment of the community." Workers enjoyed refreshments donated by local businesses, Alba Pizzeria, Flagship Restaurant, and Pani Dolci Bakery. All were entertained by the sounds of the Dave White Jazz Ensemble.

Children under eight years old to adults over eighty eagerly showed up to help where they could. Young children also had storytelling and arts and crafts activities available to them. And their excitement could barely be contained when BAN broke out the Park Day piñata! Neighborhood young people and student volunteers from area schools showed a great excitement for community work. Several of them described the event as "cool and fun" and said they "want to do this again." As BAN member Namita Puran stated, "It was inspiring to see how much pride the kids took in their work."

As the event was ending, some pre-teens noticed that a toddler had put chalk marks on a park bench they had painted. They insisted on getting rags and cleaning off the chalk. By the end of the event, the park was cleaner and there was a mountain of garbage bags filled with debris. But seeing the pride those young people took in their work and their community was the clearest evidence of the success of the day.

[Click here](#) to see photos of the event on the Briarwood Action Network Facebook page.

The Briarwood Action Network (BAN) is a neighborhood civic group dedicated to improving the quality of life in Briarwood, Queens.

For additional information, or to schedule an interview with Sylvia Sherman, Park Day Project Manager and Vice President of the Briarwood Action Network, e-mail Sylvia Sherman at ssherman.ban@gmail.com.

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