



The BAN Quarterly

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

"Spring has sprung, the flowers have riz." Isn't that how the old poem goes?

Well, here in Briarwood, spring has finally arrived. We have had a long, hard, snowy winter and most of us are happy that it is over with.

Finally, once again, I feel free to walk without snow, ice and bitterly cold winds. It is a pleasure once again to walk along Manton Street and see Hoover Park in full bloom.

The daffodils that were so lovingly planted by BAN (Briarwood Action Network) and volunteers from all around the community are in full bloom. There are hundreds of flowers in their golden glory and it brings joy to everyone who passes by.

Spring has sprung and it is wonderful.

Barbara Pramberger D'Ambrosio
Board Member
Briarwood Action Network



*Daffodils in yarn by
Barbara Pramberger D'Ambrosio*

STAYING OF SERVICE

My autobiography will show that my life's work has been mostly spent in civil service. I was part of a huge organization and was always proud to be able to say, "I work for the people of the United States." Service was a major part of my life. Upon retirement, I thought, "Now what?"

The answer = fell into my lap. In Briarwood, a new civic group was being formed and I was fortunate to be there in the formative stages. The number of people forming this group was small, but the energy and commitment to the well-being of their Briarwood community was limitless. I'd found my new home with the Briarwood Action Network (BAN).

Let me share the meaning of Service in BAN by using some examples from what was accomplished last year.

I begin with the event which may be the very definition of service: BAN's September 11th Day of Service and Remembrance. With the support of the Parks Department, BAN paid tribute to the 9/11 heroes and victims by organizing a clean-up of the Briarwood Playground. We made connections with the local schools and attracted many children and families to tackle this project. We found the kids were so enthused; they could not wait to get started and get their small hands on brooms, paint brushes, and shovels. Later we shared a remembrance ceremony in the spirit of unity and community.

Only a few weeks later, BAN sponsored it's semi-annual "It's My Park Day" event. This is when we motivate and mobilize many segments of our community to come out and work together in Hoover

(Continued on Page 2)

STAYING OF SERVICE

(Continued from Page 1)

Park. The enthusiastic volunteers that turn out to help mirror the wondrous diversity of the neighborhood. Everyone comes together in community service, recreation, artistic creation, and park beautification. Our rewards are more than a cleaner, more comfortable park; but often include new friendships, connections and understanding, and the beauty of blooming golden daffodils.

Thanksgiving always brings an opportunity to be of service to neighbors in need. I had learned that the local Kiwanis Queens Boulevard Club is able to provide Thanksgiving turkeys. Here was my chance to appeal to this group on behalf of the families living at the Briarwood Family Residence, a transitional housing facility. What gratification when a few days prior to the holiday, twenty turkeys were delivered.

The Holiday Season is known as the time of giving and for BAN it highlights the true meaning of service. We have a tradition of helping the Briarwood Family Residence with whatever they define as their most pressing holiday needs. We've held drives for food, diapers, and toys; wherever the helping hand is most needed. Last year the need was toys, toys, toys! We had our job laid out for us. Calls went out to the community, organizations, schools, cooperative building boards, businesses, and neighbors and friends. "Holiday Elves" came forth to buy, make and decorate collection boxes. Apartment building managers, MS 217, the Briarwood Library and Kiwanis Club gave support and a place to maintain BAN Toy Drive boxes. The generous people of Briarwood answered the call with a flood of toys, overwhelming and so very welcome.

The result was the collection of about 400 toys for the children at The Residence. We knew we had helped to bring the families some peace of mind and much holiday joy and the tangible expression of our love and care to the children.

And so it goes. As spring arrives and new growth abounds, the Briarwood Action Network will be planning new service projects. As for me, a BAN volunteer, I will be proud and pleased to step up to answer the call for service to my Briarwood community.

Hopefully many of you will join me and become just as proud of our community as I am.

Sylvia Sherman
Vice President
Briarwood Action Network

A Couple of Versions of that anonymous poem 'Spring is Sprung'

Version 1:

Spring is sprung.
The grass is riz.
I wonder where the birdie is?
The bird is on the wing.
Now isn't that absurd?
I always thought the wing was on the bird!

Version 2 (with a Brooklyn accent):

Spring is sprung,
The grass is riz,
I wonder where the flowers is.
The boid is on the wing --
Absoid!
Of course the wing is on the boid.

BAN FICTION CORNER:



BUMPY'S SEEPIE JAMMIE BLUES

- Parent:** Bumps, it is time for your bath now!
- Bumpy:** I don't want to take a bath!
- Parent:** You have to take a bath before you go to bed.
- Bumpy:** I don't want to take a bath.
- Parent:** See, I put in nice bubbles for you and the bathroom smells nice.
- Bumpy:** Okay, just one time will I take a bath.
- Parent:** See how nice that was, now it will be seepie jammie time.
- Bumpy:** I don't want any seepie jammies.
- Parent:** Your seepie jammies are so soft and cozy and comfortable. You will love them.
- Bumpy:** I don't want any seepie jammies.
- Parent:** Bumps, it is way past your bedtime and my patience is running thin.
- Bumpy:** What is running thin?
- Parent:** Enough is enough, it is jammie time.
- Bumpy:** Alright.
- Parent:** See how nice your jammies are and how nice you look.
- Bumpy:** Alright.
- Parent:** Here is your little stuffed rabbit and here is your little bankie.
- Bumpy:** Alright.
- Parent:** Now you have to get to sleep.
- Bumpy:** I don't want to go to sleep now!
- Parent:** Bumps, no arguments from you anymore.
- Bumpy:** Okay, I give up. I am going to sleep now. I have my stuffed rabbit and my bankie. Good night.

Barbara Pramberger D'Ambrosio
Board Member
Briarwood Action Network

We hope you'll come and Volunteer at BAN's It's My Park Day festivities on May 2!

Please join us and your other neighbors and lend a hand as we paint, rake, clean, and generally spruce up Hoover Park on Manton Street for spring and summer. Please dress appropriately for cleaning and painting. Park Day starts at 11, but we always need help for set-up. So, if you can come between 9:30 and 11, please do! We'd love to see you early!

Upcoming Events: Check the 'BAN Events' page of our website often for more details on the events below and other BAN activities:

May: May 2 – "It's My Park Day!!"
Saturday, 5/2/15, 11am-3pm at Hoover Park: Manton St between 83rd Ave and Main St
We hope you'll make plans to join us as neighbors, once again, meet and work together to beautify Hoover Park. Arts & crafts and other activities for kids. Free live music!

June: June 10 – BAN brings a free Puppet Show to Hoover Park Playground
CityParks PuppetMobile presents - "Tales of Brier Rabbit"
Wednesday, 6/10/15, 10:30am at Hoover Park Playground: on Manton St near Main St
Bring the little ones as BAN brings the CityParks PuppetMobile to Hoover Park to put on this modern adaptation of the classic American folk tale.

June 27 – BAN is bringing a Pet Adoption Event to Hoover Park
Saturday, 6/27/15 at Hoover Park: Manton St between 83rd Ave and Main St
BAN is bringing an ASPCA Pet Adoption Event to Hoover Park. Check your email and the BAN website often for more details as they become available.

Tips and Information – Spring Edition

Preparing for Spring Allergies

- See an allergist before the pollen arrives and talk to your doctor about your best course of action.
- Block some of the allergens from entering your home by shutting windows and doors.
- Vacuum and clean more often, particularly where pollen can collect. You might want to wear a mask, because this can kick up pollen, mold, and dust.
- Wash your hair after going outside, because pollen can collect there.
- Brush the dog to remove pollen attached to fur before going inside the house.
- Monitor pollen levels and try to stay indoors whenever the pollen count is very high. You can find pollen levels on weather channels or websites or the National Allergy Bureau.

Spring Cleaning Tips

- Clean windows and clear windowsills first to let the spring sun in.
- Set aside blocks of time to clean and organize in manageable chunks. Be strategic about which area you clean first.
- It's not just cleaning. Take the time to change the batteries in your smoke detector, if needed, and check what might need repairing or replacing in your home.
- De-clutter! Take a hard look at your stuff. Choose what to keep, what to donate, and what to toss.

If you're looking for a place to donate your spring cleaning cast-offs, you can contact the following:

The Salvation Army - www.salvationarmyusa.org - Call 1-800-SA-TRUCK to schedule a pickup

Goodwill - www.goodwillnynj.org - Main Office Number: (718) 728-5400

You can also check out **the NYC Stuff Exchange** - www.nyc.gov/html/stuffex - This website offers a quick and simple way for NYC residents to search for places in their neighborhood and throughout the city where they can donate, sell, buy, rent, or repair gently used goods.

Do you have a submission for the BAN Quarterly? We would love to hear from you!

Go to the 'Newsletter' section of the website for submission guidelines.

WWW.BRIARWOODACTIONNETWORK.COM

BAN continually strives, via emails, community meetings, and our website, to keep our neighbors informed. Check our website - **WWW.BRIARWOODACTIONNETWORK.COM** -, facebook page, and twitter feed -**@BriarwoodAction** - for neighborhood information. Please also use those forums to make us aware of any news. You can also email us at **briarwoodactionnetwork@gmail.com**. Or send mail to: **Briarwood Action Network**, PO Box 356068, Briarwood, NY 11435