



The BAN Quarterly

HAPPY TIME IN HOOVER PARK

Sunshine, smiles and good cheer were in abundance at BAN's spring "It's My Park Day" event at Hoover Park on May 2, 2015. This was the eighth Park Day event organized by BAN since we first brought Park Day activities to Briarwood in 2011! Over 125 people showed up to help clean up and beautify the park in what has become a popular community ritual. Those who attended were treated to a brilliantly sunny day with comfortable temperatures and the wondrous sight of daffodils blooming in full springtime glory from the bulbs that BAN planted in the fall.

While most who came to sweep, rake, clean, and paint benches were residents of the neighborhood, Park Day also drew those interested in engaging in community service from outside of Briarwood. A dozen members of a Girl Scout troop in Jackson Heights – eight and nine years old -- and their chaperones lent a helping hand, as did several teenagers associated with a Jamaica community organization. We were also fortunate enough to have senior members from the Alpha Kappa Alpha service sorority who pitched in wherever necessary and even helped staff the food table, where they handed out tasty pizza donated by Alba Restaurant and delicious desserts and pastries donated by Pani Dolci Bakery and the Flagship Diner.

We were once again joined by other community and service-oriented groups including the Kiwanis Club's Queens Blvd. chapter, Friends of Briarwood Library and Friends of Maple Grove Cemetery. We were very pleased that these partners of BAN chose to spend time with us at another Park Day. BAN was also happy to welcome Transportation Alternatives Queens Volunteer Committee as a first-time Park Day participant. We look forward to working with this group which advocates for safe streets for pedestrians and drivers. As in previous Park Days, the Fire Department sent a member to educate the crowd on fire prevention and safety. And the 107th Precinct was well represented by Police Officers and auxiliary volunteer officers. We thank both the NYFD and NYPD for showing their support of the community and being a shining example of the "serve" part of "protect and serve."

No Park Day is complete without mentioning the impressive turnout by many hardworking schoolchildren. Students from pre-K to high school do much to make Park Day a success. This year volunteers included students from a variety of schools including PS 117, MS 217, Russell Sage JHS 190, JHS 157 Stephen A Halsey School, and others. Our Park Day would not be Park Day without our student volunteers. So thanks, kids!

Everyone did their part to make our park cleaner and more beautiful. We hope you also got to meet and talk to your neighbors as well as enjoy some of the other Park Day activities. There was storytelling and arts and crafts for the younger children. And we hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the cool live music from the David White jazz ensemble. Truly a treat for all!

BAN sends thanks to Rory Lancman, who represents Briarwood in the New York City Council and Scott Wolff, Constituent Services Director for New York State Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, for stopping by. We hope some of you got to chat with them.

For those who were not able to join us, we hope to see you at our next Park Day event this fall.

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HAPPY TIME IN HOOVER PARK

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Please visit our website at www.briarwoodactionnetwork.com or [facebook page](#) to take a look at our photo gallery of Park Day images.

On behalf, of BAN, we express our deepest appreciation to all who participated in this spring's Hoover Park cleanup, whether by their hard work or their presence and support. We need you to help us continue the good work of making Briarwood a stronger community. So hope to see you soon at a future BAN meeting or event!

Thank you for making this another great Park Day!

**Aida Vernon
President
Briarwood Action Network**

THE ORANGE

The Hike
Camp Woodlands

The morning sun came cascading down the mountain side, dancing round and about, reaching out to flower, bush, plant, vine and tree, casting long, fast disappearing shadows on a carpet of green and brown. The morning fresh dew at my feet, the morning fresh Catskill mountain air filling my body with a sense of completeness and peace; the morning fresh sun warming memories of long ago.

I was twelve when I first came here. I'm now sixty five. Voices, smells of summer fragrance, the chilled warmth of a morning breeze flood my mind with childhood Augusts of long ago. There's Pete, Susan, Joan, Eric, Bob, Tony, Tania, Steve.

The morning sun's brightness makes screens of my closed eyelids on which images of the past seem so real.

"Boy, am I thirsty. This is the longest hike I've ever been on. We started after breakfast and now it's late afternoon. Boy, am I thirsty."

"So am I, Paul. I think I have a mouthful left in my canteen. How about you? I have no water left, Paul, but I did save an orange."

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OUR BEAUTIFUL MONARCH BUTTERFLY GARDENS AND WAYSTATIONS

Monarch Butterflies are very beautiful creatures. They fly over 1500 miles from Canada to Mexico and back again on their migration. They have always helped us by pollinating the flowers which give us food. These include fruits and even plants used to make medicines.

But now the Monarchs need our help. They do not have enough milkweed and food, or enough places to rest for the winter. Without our pollinators, our food chain will be affected.

So we need to plant special gardens – habitats called way stations. In these way stations, we plant milkweeds and Honey Nectar plants so that the Monarchs will have a refuge to rest, eat, drink, and raise their baby caterpillar eggs.

Now Briarwood is home to two butterfly gardens. One on the grounds of PS 117 and one newly planted in May, in Hoover Park!

The Briarwood Butterfly Brigade is a newly formed group devoted to improving the environment of Briarwood and supporting the life and survival of the Monarch butterflies. Contact them at BriarwoodButterflyBrigade@gmail.com for more information.



THE ORANGE

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"C'mon Larry. Share the orange with me."

"No, I'm going to hold on to it for later. We have a long ways to go."

"I can't wait, Larry. I'm taking the rest of my water now."

"Let's get a move on everybody. We have at least a half hour before we hook up with the hay truck."

"You sure you can't spare a sip, Larry"

"I told you I have no water left. Here, shake my canteen if you don't be..."

"How about that orange?"

"I told you I'm saving my orange, Paul!"

"There's the hay truck."

"Yea...Yea..."

"Did anyone save any water? Larry, don't you still have an orange?"

"Yes, but I was saving it...."

"Larry, I'm surprised at you."

"But Helen, I resisted...."

"Larry, I know. You deserve your orange, but one slice will hold you. If you share, you will make us all feel better."

"You know, I am a survivor of Nazi Germany. I would not be here now if it were not for perfect strangers sharing what little they had so that my husband, my daughter and I could escape. They had no more, Larry, than you have now."

Orange in hand, embarrassed and mad at myself, I took a piece and passed the rest on. As the hay truck travelled through the lush Woodland Valley, surrounded by mountains casting long shadows of late afternoon, the welcome coolness of oncoming night in our faces, we burst into song.

*'We come from the city
We've just left the town,
We've come to the country
To shake those apples down.'*

Larry Sherman
Director, Communications Committee
Briarwood Action Network

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



Some FREE Events in Queens this Summer!!!

Thursday, July 9, 7:30pm–9:00pm: Waterfront Concert Series: The Cab Calloway Orchestra

The Cab Calloway Orchestra comes from the Big Band Swing Jazz Orchestra style that came bursting out of the Cotton Club and the Savoy Ballroom in the Harlem Renaissance during the 30's and 40's. Held on the Astoria Park Lawn in Astoria Park. More Info-(718) 728-7820 or info@centralastoria.nyc.

Wednesday, July 29, 7:00pm–9:30pm: Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor"

Shakespeare's farce about courtship, jealousy, and friendship held at the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. More Info on the NYC Parks Dept Events webpage.

Friday & Saturday, August 7 & 8: Jamaica Arts & Music Summer (JAMS) Festival

This two-day festival kicks off with the Under the Stars Concert from 6 to 10pm, which pays homage to musical icons of jazz, R&B, rock and funk in Rufus King Park. The celebration continues the next day, highlighting the diversity of Queens and giving guests an insider's view into downtown Jamaica and surrounding areas. The JAMS Festival was created in 1996 by the local community and attracts more than 185,00 residents. For more information, visit go2ccj.org.

Saturday & Sunday, August 8 & 9, 9:00am–5:00pm: 2015 Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival

This much anticipated multicultural event features two exciting days of dragon boat racing, wonderful performances, and an ethnic food court. Held at Meadow Lake North in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

Tips and Information – Summer Edition

Dealing with the Heat/Heat Illness

Hot and humid summer weather can cause heat illness and even death. Heat illness occurs when the body cannot cool down. The most serious forms of heat illness are heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Older adults, people with chronic medical conditions or mental health conditions, the socially isolated, and certain other groups are most vulnerable

Air conditioning can be a life saver. - When it's hot outside, it can be even hotter inside.

- Use your air conditioner at home. Fans alone will not keep you cool when it is really hot outside.
- If you do not have an air conditioner: Go to a cool place like a library, a friend's home with air conditioning, or a cooling center. Call 311 and ask "Where is the cooling center nearest to me?"

Drink plenty of water on hot days, even if you are not thirsty.

Stay safe when you are outside

- Wear light, loose-fitting clothes.
- Stay in the shade and out of direct sun.
- Avoid strenuous physical activity.

Recognize the symptoms of too much heat - Call 911 or go to the emergency room right away if you or someone you know has symptoms of heat illness, such as:

- Hot, dry skin OR cold, clammy skin.
- Weakness
- Dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Trouble breathing
- Confusion, hallucinations, disorientation

Check on vulnerable family, friends, and neighbors to make sure they stay safe and cool.

Some helpful phone numbers in case of Power Outages:

- Con Edison 24hr hotline: 800-75-CONED (752-6633) /
- National Grid 24hr hotline: 718-643-4050
- PSEG 24-hour hotline: 1-800-490-0025

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](https://twitter.com/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