



## March Guest Speaker

We have a guest speaker for our March meeting. LaShundra Leslie-Smith will give a short presentation on Connected Communities. Their goal is to break the cycle of poverty and revitalize the EMMA and Beechwood communities which are adjacent to Bensonhurst.

Connected Communities is a non profit organization of private and public collaboration of businesses, neighbors, government and non profit leaders working together with residents to accelerate community transformation.

Shared goals include mixed income housing, education, community health and wellness and long term economic viability.

We encourage neighbors from EMMA, Beechwood and the new Laurelton (Irondequoit) association to join us.

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## Proudly Serving the Streets of:

Bay  
Bedford  
Edgeland  
Clifford  
Culver  
Rocket  
Martinot  
Roseview  
Longview  
Salisbury  
Laurelton  
Lawndale  
Mapledale  
Pershing  
Westchester

## Open Invitation

Bensonhurst welcomes everyone to our monthly neighborhood meetings, not just BNA neighbors.

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## Library Book Sale

The Rochester Public Library is holding its annual used book sale in the Kate Gleason Auditorium at the Bausch and Lomb Library March 16-19. The event is free to the public. All proceeds benefit the Rochester Public Library.

Thurs, March 16 3-8pm  
Fri, March 17 10-am -5pm  
Sat, March 18 10-am- 5pm  
Sun, March 19 12-4pm

## Pathstone

PathStone is accepting applications from City of Rochester residents who have a **broken furnace, water heater, or water service.** The homeowner must be up to date on their City and County property taxes and be income eligible. Applicants can start the application process by calling (585) 442-2030 ext. 214 or visiting the office at 15 Prince Street 8am to 4pm Monday through Friday.



## Feb Meeting Minutes

It was a sparsely attended meeting with 4 neighbors, 4 firefighters and Nancy from the NSC.... but it was after all, Valentines Day! Around the room introductions were done for the benefit of the firefighters. Officer Cannon was sick ...hope you feel better soon,.....and Officer Belliard was working the day shift.

Obviously we did not receive any crime stats for the last month. Heather did have an email that was sent out by RPD regarding multiple arrests that were made, none of which were in BNA.

The firefighters were covering for the Goodman section tonight so we let them go first in case they got a call. They said they started digging up some stats about their calls and found that approximately 50% of them are for EMS related events such as chest pain. This time of year they get a lot of calls for MVA's along with natural gas calls. They encouraged everyone to get out of the house if you smell gas and THEN call 911. Women for the most part, have a keener sense of smell than men and are more apt to detect gas odors earlier.

They said smoke and CO detectors usually need to be replaced every 6-7 years. You can get a replacement and/or batteries by calling 311 and there are no income limits to obtain either. They also reminded us to keep fire hydrants clear of snow and if you see any private contractors pushing snow around them when they are plowing driveways to say something to them.

Paul did not have the treasurer's report but Peg sent it via email. Our balance is \$3,431.26 with no major upcoming expenses.

Nancy from NSC reported Daisy Algerian is the new director for the NSC offices.

She also handed out brochures from the Rochester Broadway Theater League offering discounts on tickets. Cabaret is playing at the Auditorium Theater in May. You can save 20% on select seats for performances on May 2 and 3. Use code EMCEE at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) when ordering your tickets. Thanks Nancy!

The City Clean Sweep will be Saturday, May 6. Bensonhurst will have our own mini clean sweep on Sat, May 20. More details on both later.

We have a guest speaker for our April meeting. Matt is looking into one for our March meeting.

With so few neighbors in attendance, we did not hold the 50/50 raffle.

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## April Guest Speaker

We have a guest speaker for April! Brian Bennett, member of the New York National Guard and the New York State Citizen Preparedness Corps will give a talk on preparing for all types of disasters. Since his presentation is just over an hour long, we will have a VERY short meeting followed by his talk. Lets have a good turn out for his talk. We invite neighboring groups to attend as well.



## Kiva

Kiva Rochester provides 0% interest loans of up to \$10,000 to help low-income and underserved entrepreneurs launch and grow their businesses. Since the program's launch in August, over \$100,000 in loans have been funded and disbursed directly to 16 city small businesses.

Loans are paid back by the borrower to the original lenders over a repayment term of up to three years. Visit the City's webpage [here](#) or the [Kiva Rochester facebook page](#) to learn more! You can also reach out to Brad Willows, Kiva Program Coordinator at 428-6053 [Bradley.Willows@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:Bradley.Willows@cityofrochester.gov) or Amy Ventura, Office of Innovation Analyst [Amy.Ventura@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:Amy.Ventura@cityofrochester.gov).

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## Urban Agricultural Conference

Saturday, May 3 from 10a-4p the 2nd annual Urban Agricultural Conference will be held at Louis A Cerulli School, #34, 530 Lexington Ave. This will be a day of hands on workshops, demonstrations and garden tours open to all individuals, groups and skill levels. Lunch will be provided.

More information can be found at [facebook.com/RocUAWG/](https://facebook.com/RocUAWG/) with registration details to follow.



Thanks to Savoia Pastry Shoppe for renewing their ad in our newsletter!



### Adopt a hydrant!

Winter is not yet in full swing. Now is a great time to “Adopt” a hydrant by agreeing to do the items below. You even get to name your hydrant if you want! Go to the city website, [www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589970472](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/article.aspx?id=8589970472) and click on a hydrant near you. Many hydrants are found near intersections.

All you have to do is 1- Clear a path from the hydrant to the street, 2- Clear a three foot perimeter around the hydrant and 3- remove ice and snow.

We are hoping for 100% compliance in Bensonhurst!

### Tax Preparation Help

The Central library and Monroe County are partnering with NYS Dept of Taxation and Finance to assist people with incomes less than \$54,000 in preparing their 2016 income taxes. The program will provide free laptops and volunteers to answer questions. All sessions are free and will be held in the Business and Social Sciences Division on the 4th floor of the Bausch and Lomb Library downtown.

Sessions are select Wednesdays 11a-5pm and Saturdays 10:30a-3pm during February, March and April with the last day being on April 12. Appointments can be scheduled by calling the Business Division at the Library 585-428-8130. Walk ins are also welcome.

More information can be found at: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/free-tax-return-preparation-for-you-by-volunteers>

### Paralegal Help

**The 7th Judicial District Court and Rochester Central Library Help Centers:** Legal professionals are available to provide legal information and forms to unrepresented litigants. The Help Centers help to make sure that those representing themselves have the information necessary to use the courts effectively. Note: **The Help Centers do not provide legal advice.**

**The Family Law Remote Assistance Project:** This program connects unrepresented Family Court individuals with attorney volunteers ready to assist in completing Family Court Petitions. Scheduled meetings are held via webcam at a library near the client, making it convenient for those that are located outside of downtown Rochester.

[www.vlsprochester.org/flrap.html](http://www.vlsprochester.org/flrap.html) for more information or call 585-295-5712. This is a free program!

### Library Discussion Groups

Arnett, Sully and Lyell branch libraries will be hosting a series of talks on various subjects.

March 13 at 4:30pm at Sully. Tenants Rights and Housing.

April 24 at 6pm at Lyell. Job Readiness

April 13, at 5pm at Arnett. Lets talk Money.

Refreshments provided.

### Celebrate City Living

Celebrate City Living Expo will be held on Saturday, April 1 from 10am-2pm. at City Hall. This is a chance to showcase various neighborhoods encouraging people to move into the city. City council members, neighborhood groups and local service providers and businesses will be on hand to answer questions along with area restaurant foods, educational workshops and special presentations featuring the City’s unique and diverse housing market.





**Ray Ray's  
Bar and Grill**  
2260 Clifford Ave.  
Rochester NY 14609  
585-413-1661

## Important Contact Information

BNA Voicemail:  
585-234-1535

BNA Email:  
[info@bensonhurst14609.org](mailto:info@bensonhurst14609.org)

BNA Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/Bensonhurst14609](http://www.facebook.com/Bensonhurst14609)

BNA address:  
PO Box 90411  
Rochester, NY 14609

BNA website:  
[www.bensonhurst14609.org](http://www.bensonhurst14609.org)

Neighborhood Service Center  
585-428-7640  
<http://www.cityofrochester.gov/nensc/>

NBN and PCIC website:  
<http://sites.google.com/site/nbnsector8/Home>

Crime Reports Lists  
[www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

Sex Offender site:  
[www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/](http://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/nsor/)

Do Not Call List:  
[www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov)  
1-888-382-1222

City Hall services - 311 non emergency  
[www.cityofrochester.gov](http://www.cityofrochester.gov)

**911**- To report any suspicious activity or emergency

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## Newsletter Submissions

Newsletters are published monthly and delivered prior to each meeting. The deadline for submissions is 2 weeks prior to each BNA meeting.

Send all newsletter materials to [info@bensonhurst14609.org](mailto:info@bensonhurst14609.org)  
Pictures are also welcome.

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| 25 | 26 | 27        | 28        | 29 | 30 |    |
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## Archived Newsletters

Past and current issues of the newsletters are archived on the BNA website.

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## Paid Ad Information

The Bensonhurst Neighborhood Association will gladly publish your business card sized ad for a donation of \$50 per year. That equals a total of 12 monthly issues on our website in addition to quarterly flyers which are hand delivered to 600-700 homes, businesses, and government agencies. Money from ads helps cover printing expenses as Bensonhurst Neighborhood Association is 100% organized by volunteers. Thank you.

## Upcoming Events

**Mar 8 - PCIC meeting**

**Mar 14- BNA meeting**

**Apr 11- BNA meeting**

**Apr 12 - PCIC meeting**

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**Why not join us on the second Tuesday of each month at our monthly meetings at 7pm at Johnny's Irish Pub 1382 Culver Road?**

**Meetings are located in the Red Room separate from the bar area.**

**There is a ramped entrance in the rear of the building also separate from the bar.**

**All meetings are informal, positive & all are encouraged to participate.**

**BNA does not charge dues or membership fees.**