



## Spring 2021 NEWSLETTER

### A Walk in the Park

Winter in the park is always an interesting time to learn more about the wildlife who live there and the people who visit. Snowfall held off through the fall, but once it came, the park took on the appearance of a snow globe. With moderate depths of snow falling at any given time, walking the trails was almost always possible. Visitors were able to build snowmen, find animal tracks, and take some lovely photos. The Buffalo Creek froze over briefly in February-March. A brief ice jam saw a rise in water levels, but no flooding. Snow thaw and spring rains will probably raise the water level again. Visitors are asked to be very cautious along the creek through this period. That fun filled summer creek is dangerous when levels rise.



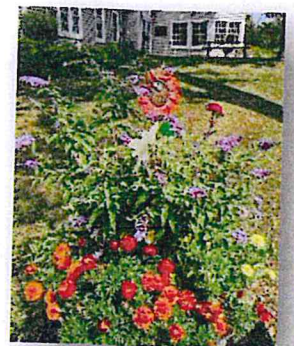
The colors of spring will soon start emerging. The daffodils are already popping up and the Lenten Rose is gradually showing its blooms. The buds are beginning to show on the trees. Once it starts, the transitions usually progress quickly. We encourage people to visit frequently during the spring. Keep track of the colors as they emerge. Yellow is usually first, but green, purple, white and pink follow day by day. Pick a color and go looking for it. With spring flowers, come weeds. While they sometimes distract from the perennial gardens, we have to remember that weeds play a role in nature. We are careful not to disturb the gardens too soon as those messy patches are important to many insects and native plants. Bees in particular love those early weed blossoms. Birds, ducks, chipmunks and squirrels use the garden debris for nesting. We forego pristine gardens in favor of a healthy habitat. We celebrate our NATURE park. There are plans being made to add more picnic tables, improve the Treaty Commemoration area, add a special activity for young children and plant more trees. Frank O'Connor will be back working the "Sinisteria" limb sculpture. The parklands are ever evolving and we work to support the natural elements and improve the visitor experience.



The town employees stay busy this time of year. Tree limbs that have fallen and damaged trees are tended to. While some tree branches are important to habitat, clean up is needed to prevent dry tinder from becoming a fire hazard. Park clean up extends to litter and raking leaves. Then there are the piles of poo that are left behind during the winter to clean up (no, dog poo does not melt with the snow). Patience is needed as we roll through the next few months. Keep your eyes on the beautiful flowers and watch your step.

### Would you like to help make the park a special place?

We are looking for individuals or groups to ADOPT A GARDEN. The BNAC volunteers will work with anyone who would like to participate. The adopted garden can be as big or small as you feel you can handle. There are also ongoing tasks like watering planters, raking trails and trimming shrubs from paths that need your help. Most of these jobs can be accomplished in just short periods of time at your convenience. If you are interested call the BNAC at 677-4843 or email to [BurchfieldNAC@gmail.com](mailto:BurchfieldNAC@gmail.com). Help make the beauty happen.





## What's Happening at the Burchfield Nature and Art Center?

Despite the restrictions put on the Friends of the BNAC by the Covid-19 pandemic and the lack of repairs to the gallery section of the building, our volunteers have sought to continue serving the community in a variety of ways.



Between July 2020 and the end of the year, over 3,200 individual craft kits were created and made available on a clothes line strung outside the building. These "Take It and Make It" kits consisted of the materials needed to create a project and the directions all in a plastic bag that could be taken home and enjoyed. Grandmas especially seemed to appreciate these as there was no cost and it was something they could do with the grandkids. In this new year over 100 of the kits have been given to the West Seneca Library for families to pick up during visits. More kits are being prepared for

hanging on the craft line at the BNAC as the weather improves. The crafts will be available around Easter. There are plans to have them available during the summer as well.

In December, a Letters to Santa mailbox was put up on the flagpole. Over 75 letters came in and each received a personal response from a volunteer (on Santa's behalf). As the new year began, the volunteers decided to reach out to people who may be feeling isolated by sending Friendship Notes and Valentines. More than 200 notes have gone out to veterans, Meals on Wheels recipients and people in local nursing homes. The Friendship notes are an ongoing project and are designed to let people feel that someone is thinking of them. Our Facebook page (Facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC) has been utilized this past year to provide **\*Activity Pages** and craft ideas. It also shares information from the West Seneca Recreation Department, the Historical Society, the Library and other community resources.

No one is sure what limitations we will face in 2021. The BNAC volunteers have not planned concerts and other events for this year because of the uncertainty. There is no way of limiting attendance and avoiding crowds in the park. If we (hopefully) see a return to some normalcy this summer, Facebook and our website (Burchfieldnac.org) will serve as our main means for getting out information about things happening at the park or classroom. As we did last year, we will look for safe ways to help people explore and enjoy the park, art, nature and history. Keep faith that good times are ahead.

### DID YOU KNOW?

1. Charles E. Burchfield, world renowned watercolorist, worked for the Birge wallpaper company as a designer when he first came to Buffalo in the 1920's.
2. The Ebenezers did not have kitchens in their homes. They prepared and ate all meals in a community kitchen that served large groups at a time.



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