

Fall 2023 Newsletter

The Burchfield Nature and Art Center was an exciting place to be this summer.

The BNAC Art Gallery reopened in May 2023. Hundreds of people have visited to see exhibits by Seneca Nation Artists, the West Seneca Art Society and an exhibit of works from Three Generations of Burchfields. The gallery is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:00-2:00 and Sunday from 1:00-4:00. The Burchfield Three Generations exhibit is on display until October 25th. It will be followed by our Annual Photography Contest in November and December. Planning is underway for exhibits in the gallery in 2024. The volunteers introduced a FIND IT activity in the Gallery that encourages children and adults to look for specific objects or characteristics of art which draws people into the artwork.





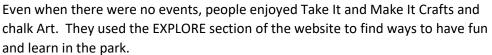
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

The BNAC volunteers sponsored 4 Sunday Funday and 5 Wonderful Wednesday events in the park this summer. Families gathered to enjoy crafts, games and a variety of fun activities to explore. This year there was no challenge regarding weather. When high heat or rain was a problem, activities simply moved into the building. Fairy houses were designed, boats floated, bubbles chased and new friends made. The magic of art and nature was celebrated at the Enchanted Forest event. Those attending events noted how wonderful it was to spend time with family and friends simply creating,



learning and playing. The Seneca Nation returned to the park for the Treaty

Commemoration Ceremony in May. Drum Circles in the park brought in many people
for peaceful summer evenings. The Carnival Kids Steel Orchestra provided a fun filled
evening of music in the amphitheater.







NATURE'S BEAUTY ABOUNDS

The gardens and grounds received a lot of attention this year. Gardens were adopted by Hunt Realty West Seneca, the West Seneca Woman's Club, the Amana Garden Club, and the Molly Martin Family. Life Church donated time to weed, mulch, and create garden pavers. Volunteers from Suburban Adult Services and Pathways to Employment were in the park multiple times a week picking up litter, raking and renewing the mulch beds. Eagle Scout projects created a deer ex-closure as part of the effort to

curb the disruptive impact of deer and replaced QR codes to make learning in the park easier. Students from local schools spread mulch in the playground, picked up litter, washed windows and removed dead

wood from the woodlands. BNAC volunteers worked at gardens to make them pollinator friendly and sustainable. The Town of West Seneca Building and Grounds employees assure the park is mowed, trimmed, clean and safe. We still have a lot of dead wood to haul out from trees that fell in bad weather. That effort will continue after the poison ivy is gone for the season. The patio near the building is a mess. Good news, it is going to be replaced in the spring of 2024. First, the roof has to be replaced. Over the winter the



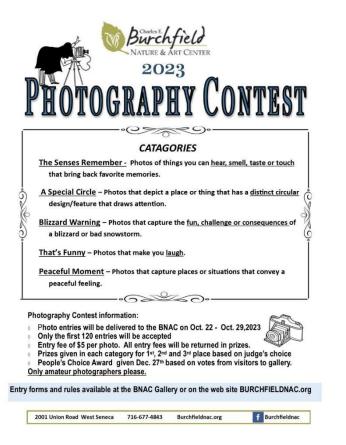
town plans to complete the repairs inside the north end of the building which will allow for more exhibit space.

ALI BRINGS A SPECIAL TOUCH



The BNAC volunteers were joined by an intern from Mercyhurst University this summer. Ali Forsythe shared her talents to make summer special for all. Ali designed community art projects that encouraged participation to create a new sign for the BNAC, painted rocks for the gardens and a Dream Catcher in the gallery. Her imagination led to many special art activities like Rainbow Fish crafts and Puppet Day. Fridays in the Park with Ms. Ali added a chance for families to be creative. We are grateful for all Ali shared.





The park is opened dawn to dusk daily. Enjoy a nature walk. Check the EXPLORE page on our website for ideas of things you can do at the park to make your visit an adventure. BurchfieldNAC.org.





Be a good visitor. Do not approach or feed wildlife. Take out of the park what you bring into the park. Keep dogs on a leash and clean up after them.



Wednesday 12/27/23 Noon – 2:30

Holiday Open House

Enjoy the Simple Pleasures of the Holiday Season

YOU CAN PLAY A ROLE

The Burchfield Nature and Art Center building and park are the property of the town of West Seneca. The Friends of the BNAC are an all volunteer group who manage the gallery, help maintain the grounds, provide special activities and events and work with the community to assure the facility is used in ways that promote the arts, nature, history and music. From January through August 2023, volunteers have donated over **2800** hours of time to the BNAC.

Become a volunteer. Meetings are the second Friday of the month at 1:00. There is something for everyone to try. Design and work at family activities. Help with office tasks. Work on publicity, website and Facebook. Greet visitors in the Gallery. Hang an art exhibit. Use your gardening skills in the park. There are no mandatory hours. You can join the fun when you want and do the things that appeal to you. Come to a meeting and try it out. Contact us by email at Burchfieldnac@gmail.com or call 716-677-4843.

Be a Patron. Our Patrons make monetary donations of any amount. Those funds are used to buy supplies for activities, equipment for the office, plants for the gardens and items we need to keep the building and gallery a special place to visit.

BurchfieldNAC@gmail.com

716-677-4843

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BurchfieldNAC.org