

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. Even when there were no events, people enjoyed Take It and Make It Crafts and chalk Art. They used the EXPLORE section of the website to find ways to have fun and learn in the park.




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.



Charles E. Burchfield
NATURE & ART CENTER
2023
PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

CATEGORIES

The Senses Remember - Photos of things you can hear, smell, taste or touch that bring back favorite memories.

A Special Circle - Photos that depict a place or thing that has a distinct circular design/feature that draws attention.

Blizzard Warning - Photos that capture the fun, challenge or consequences of a blizzard or bad snowstorm.

That's Funny - Photos that make you laugh.

Peaceful Moment - Photos that capture places or situations that convey a peaceful feeling.

Photography Contest information:

- Photo entries will be delivered to the BNAC on Oct. 22 - Oct. 29, 2023
- Only the first 120 entries will be accepted
- Entry fee of \$5 per photo. All entry fees will be returned in prizes.
- Prizes given in each category for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place based on judge's choice
- People's Choice Award given Dec. 27th based on votes from visitors to gallery. Only amateur photographers please.



Entry forms and rules available at the BNAC Gallery or on the web site BURCHFIELDNAC.org

2001 Union Road West Seneca

716-677-4843

Burchfieldnac.org



Burchfieldnac

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.

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