



BROOKSIDE BULLETIN

A publication of Brookside Civic Association

Summer in Brookside featured several fun outdoor events, including a Block Party hosted by Sunny 95 and a visit from the Graeter's Ice Cream truck. Additionally, the BCA brought something new to the neighborhood: an outdoor movie night on the inflatable big screen!

Online, trustees created a new Buy, Sell & Trade Facebook group to enable Brooksidiers to more easily sell and exchange items with neighbors. Residents were also invited to share input on important topics in two surveys. Some key results are included in this issue.

The BCA returned to in-person monthly meetings this quarter. Trustees were excited to welcome a few new faces and look forward to more resident involvement in the future.

Behind the scenes, trustees recently secured 501(c)(3) status for the BCA, making the organization a tax-exempt non-profit. Tax savings is one part of the strategy trustees will be using to address dramatic increases in costs.

There is a lot on the upcoming schedule for the BCA. Be sure to check out the side bar on the next page for a list of important dates.

BCA Officers

Jamie Seebald
Kate Basti
Michele Elliott

BCA Trustees

Eric Basti
Natasha Crawford
Nikki Klingel
Carrie Ward
Zach Ward

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Meetings 1st Tuesday of Month
7pm, Perry Twp. Building #1

Hello, Entrances!

We're taking a break from our neighbor profiles this issue to provide an update on upcoming entrance repairs.

SNOUFFER/MCVEY ENTRANCE UPDATE

A recent survey presented residents with three options for rebuilding the stonework damaged in the hit-and-run accident at the Snouffer/McVey entrance. With 125 responses, BCA trustees voted to accept the proposal from Wood Landscape Services, which was preferred by 71% of respondents. This option will rebuild the house-shaped portion of the entrance wall at an estimated cost of \$12,250 (with a possible additional cost of \$2,500-\$3,000 if footers need to be repoured). Construction is scheduled to begin in early spring. Meanwhile, trustees are using resident feedback to develop a plan for plantings (key preferences voiced include low-maintenance, streamlined, and evergreen/year-round interest). The current balance of the Entrance Fund is \$12,100.

161/MCVEY ENTRANCE UPDATE

This fall, RKG Property Services will be replacing the damaged shrub at the 161/McVey entrance. This repair will be covered by the insurance of the motorist who hit this entrance at no cost to the BCA.

The Hog Roast is Back!

Join us for food, fun, and football on November 5th

Your favorite fall tradition is back in its original format with pulled pork provided by the BCA! The Party Bus will be on hand with football on the big screen. Bring a dish to share, chairs, and a beverage and enjoy some time with your Brookside neighbors! The fun begins at 4pm at 2475 Darwin Dr. An RSVP link is available via email and Facebook.

Able to help? The BCA needs volunteers to help (particularly with set up/tear down). Sign up via the link from email or Facebook or email brooksidecivic@gmail.com.



Important Dates

OCT 22: Shred It Day/
Poinsettia Sale Kickoff
9-11am, Elem. School

OCT 23: Fall Decorating
Contest Judging

NOV 1: BCA Meeting
7pm, Perry Twp. Bldg. 1

NOV 5: Hog Roast/
2023 Dues Kickoff
4pm, 2475 Darwin Dr.

DEC 6: BCA Meeting
7pm, Perry Twp. Bldg. 1

DEC 7: Winter
Decorating
Contest Judging

DEC 10: Sleigh Ride
5:30-8:30pm, Elem. School

Survey Results

Another recent survey collected data regarding resident priorities when it comes to entrances, events, and finances. Some key results from the 195 responses include:

I attend BCA events:
Sometimes- **66%**
Regularly- **17%**
Never- **17%**

To help fund entrances, I would prefer to:
Skip some big events over next year- **57%**
Have all big events as usual- **36%**
Skip all events for next year- **7%**

If some events are skipped, I would KEEP (choose 1-2):
Sleigh Ride- **35%**
Hog Roast- **27%**
Easter Egg Hunt- **25%**
Summer Event- **13%**

To address rising costs, I would prefer to:
Increase dues, maintain programming- **57%**
Keep dues the same, cut programming- **43%**

I am willing to pay to ride the sleigh (if going):
Yes- **87%** No- **13%**

Based upon these results, BCA trustees have voted to take the following actions:

- Increase annual dues to offset inflation and help fund renovations
- Hold the 2022 Hog Roast and Sleigh Ride
- Add a charge to ride the sleigh this year (to offset significant increase in rental fee)
- Skip the 2023 Summer Event and allocate those funds toward entrances
- Add a series of no/low-cost small events in 2023 based upon survey feedback



SUPPORT THE BCA IN 2023

2023 dues collection kicks off on Nov. 5 at the Hog Roast. Your voluntary contribution helps fund events, entrance upkeep, communications, and a scholarship. While we each value these benefits differently, together we can all enjoy some of what is important to us while also showing kindness to our neighbors and building community.

The BCA dues rate has remained steady for more than a decade despite 30% inflation over that period. Trustees also added the loyalty card program in 2020 to create savings for residents. Given rising costs and added value, trustees have set the 2023 dues rate at \$60/household.

\$10 of the increase will fund entrance renovations and the other \$10 will offset inflation across the budget. Overall, this means your dues will contribute about \$40 to entrances, \$15 to events, and \$10 to scholarship and operations. You will also receive a 2023 loyalty card and priority sleigh registration as thanks for your support.

To give residents greater flexibility, the BCA will also now be accepting donations. Residents can use this option to give any amount to the general, event, or entrance funds.

Dues payments and donations can be made by credit card or check at the Hog Roast, via the website beginning Nov. 5, or by mailing a check to 2702 McVey Blvd. West. Thank you for investing in this neighborhood we all love.