BCLA Membership Calendar for these BCLA Events:

- **Strawberry Festival** – May 15th
- **Neighborhood Yard Sale** – June 18th
- **Fall Fest** – October 8th
- **4th of July Bike Parades** – July 4th

Did you know the BCLA offers the following regular classes? Just contact the email for more information, or show up on the day of the class to sign up!
- **Jazzercize** – Tuesdays & Thursdays (10:00 AM – 11:00 AM) jalazzmila21@hotmail.com
- **Painting** – Thursdays (6:00 PM) zukicat@yahoo.com
- **Kid’s Play Groups** (2 sessions) – Wednesday’s (10:00 AM – 3:00 PM) contact deb.dernovich@gmail.com

2016 Membership Drive Update

The 2016 Membership Drive is underway and is making good progress. The Blackridge Civic Association (BCLA) has 163 members as of March 2016. The total number of BCLA members for the entire calendar year of 2015 was 197. This means that we are off to a good start, as 2016 is outpacing the 2015 membership rate thus far. 67.6% of the 163 members (41%) for 2016 were not BCLA members in 2015. This growth in membership is due to the efforts of our Block Captains. These volunteers have been instrumental in organizing materials, knocking on doors, sharing information, and spreading the word about the benefits of BCLA membership. The Blackridge community encompasses over 600 households in total, and the BCLA’s goal this year is to break the 300 member mark. In the last 30 years, the closest the BCLA has come to 300 members was in 1988 with 293.

There is still much work to do if we are to achieve our goals. The BCLA traditionally gets the majority of its members at two times during the year, just after the New Year and before the Pool opens in the later spring. Many of our spring members sign up because a BCLA membership is a requisite for pool membership. We are hoping our Block Captains can help to bridge the gaps during the slower membership periods.

The table below shows membership by street as of February. Listed is the number of paid BCLA memberships versus the total numbers of homes on the street. This fraction makes up the participation percentage. It is our hope to reach out to all of our streets and neighbors to strengthen our community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street</th>
<th>Paid BCLA Members</th>
<th>Total Homes</th>
<th>Participation Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jamestown Pl</td>
<td>14/38 37%</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollywood Dr</td>
<td>10/35 29%</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamsburg Pl</td>
<td>9/24 38%</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collins Rd</td>
<td>19/55 35%</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Gate Rd</td>
<td>6/20 30%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange &amp; Penny Blossom</td>
<td>2/14 14%</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Beulah Rd</td>
<td>1/20 5%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockridge Rd</td>
<td>1/20 5%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Blackridge Civic Association truly appreciates all of its current members and donors for their new and continued support. Here’s to a successful 2016! Thank you!
Fracking Update

A proposal to drill as many as fourteen gas wells on the site of the former Churchill Valley Country Club was successfully turned away when the Churchill Borough Council voted to amend its zoning code to no longer permit gas and oil drilling on that property. An enormous show of public opposition to the planned drilling was crucial in helping the Council to make that decision. The BCA was instrumental in informing the public about the drilling plan, and turning the citizens out to the Council meetings. While there are currently no plans to do so, gas drilling is still a possible use for the property presently owned by Westinghouse, on Beulah Road. BCA members are among the citizens advising the Borough on further amendments to its zoning code, to strictly regulate the conditions under which drilling could be done.

2016 Board Meetings and process to get on agenda:

The 2016 Board Meetings will all be held at the clubhouse on Tuesday’s at 7:30 PM ET (dates shown below). Members paid in full can attend any agenda item by emailing your name, address and topic to bcawebmaster@gmail.com. Or if you do not have email, please leave a voicemail message at 412.241.9569. Agenda items must be submitted no later than 1 week prior to the meeting.

• April 12th:  June 14th:  Aug. 16th:  Nov. 1st

This Old House Dates:

Our Vice President of Facilities (Peter Hughes) is looking for volunteers to help again with light facilities projects at the clubhouse on Saturdays. We need your help for things like light carpentry, painting and spring cleaning. Mark your calendar for “This Old House club” volunteer dates on Saturdays from 9:00 – 1:00 PM.

• April 23 • May 21 • Oct. 22nd

List of Board Members:

Our current list of 2016 board members is listed below, please note we have several vacancies so if you are interested in volunteering please email Jen Suiters at jennyalfy@gmail.com or leave a voicemail at 412.241.9569.

• President – John (Jen) Suiters Interim
• Treasurer – Ron Kotun
• Secretary – Maria Taylor
• Vice President - Membership – Kirstin Pesch
• Vice President – Buildings & Grounds – Peter Hughes
• Vice President – Ways & Means – Ceil Greber
• Rental Director – Kelly Babich
• Newsletter – Vox Anderson
• Historian – Stephen Pesch
• Webmaster – Damon Mahon
• Church Hill at Large – Lee Borrelli, Judy Schyer, Maria Taylor
• Penn Hills at Large – Stephen Junman, Bill Miller, I Vacancy
• Wilkinsburg at Large – Marita Garrett, 2 Vacancies

2015 Outdoor Holiday Decoration Contest Winners:

$250 First prize (Co-winners - split prize money) Jennifer Goddard & Terry Kring, 2156 Orlando Pl
Bill Miller, 1742 Williamsburg Pl

Second prize (Co-winners - split prize)
Lori & Mark Kregier, 1002 Blackridge Rd.
Carol Flaherty, 1742 Williamsburg Pl

The Garden Club would like to thank the judges and everyone who participated, but a special thanks goes to Nick Duerringer and Hal Dixler who, in honor of Norma Dixler, have graciously sponsored and provided the prizes for this event for the last two years.

Venturing Crew 115

In September of 2014 the BCA became the charter organization for Venturing Crew 115. Venturing is a program within the Boy Scouts of America and is for youth ages 14 – 20.

Our crew was started because a couple of the girls wanted to go beyond what they were doing in the Girl Scouts and do something of what their brothers and friends were doing in Boy Scou. The Crew was started with five girls and has grown to nine. The current members are between the ages of 14 and 16. The Crew meets monthly at the BCA clubhouse.

The girls have camped in tents in spring, summer and fall and in cabinpatrols in last 2 years. They have been canoeing, kayaking, climbing, & repelling, caving, and zip lining. They have shot archery, shotgun and black powder muskets. They competed against Boy Scout patrols in last year’s Klondike Derby (a camping, orienteer- ing, first aid, cooking skills competition) and came in 6th out of 27 patrols. They are participating on courses for leadership, first aid, CPR, outdoor skills and personal safety.

Part of our crew’s focus is on service. While camping on Sycamore Island the girls performed a “willow staking” service project for the Allegheny Land Trust. For the last two years, we built and maintained the fire for the BCA Fall Festival and helped out with several activities throughout the event. On January first of 2016, the Crew hosted its New Year’s Day wake up event for the neighborhood. This year we worked with the BCA to make it a membership drive event and started getting memberships that day. The crew has participated in the “This Old Clubhouse Work days at the BCA and plans to be involved where we ever can to help the BCA.

The Crew Advisor is Dick Page. He is an Eagle Scout with many years of leadership experience and training. If you know of a girl who is 14, or has completed the 8th grade (or is 13 and could participate on a recruitment basis) reach out to Dick for more details. We hope this Crew will be around for years to come. They are hoping to build on the base unit that has been created over this first year. Come out and “Lead the Adventure!”

Gingerbread Fun!

On a cold Saturday in November, 40 families came together at the BCA for the annual gingerbread event! Children and adults created unique gingerbread creations using candy, icing, graham cracker and lots of touches of creativity. Buildings ranged from a tree house, multi-level dwellings and carefully crafted surrounding. Some builders even prepared for the event by bringing plans of what they wanted to make. The event was topped off, straight from the North Pole, by Santa himself! After inspecting the beautiful gingerbread houses, Santa heard the Christmas wishes from the children of Blackridge. Thank you to those who donated supplies and their time to make this event a success! This is an annual event that should not be missed. We hope you see us next year all!”


The Blackridge Garden Club will present its Annual Not-To-Be-Missed Plant Auction on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM at the BCA. Auctioneer Ceil Greber will begin collecting plant donations at the BCA at 6:00 PM, or you may drop off contributions to Ceil (412.247.5828) in advance of the event. Don’t forget to include any monetary gifts you may have. All donations and contributions are much appreciated. When possible, please identify plant material and indicate special needs such as sun or shade and approximate height. This will aid and woolly Blackridge event rolls around every May with neighbors sharing wealth with neighbors. Spreading perennials, root- ed clippings, shrub sprouts, and seedlings are auctioned off in a gleeful spree. Bring your friends and relatives, and, of course, donations from your garden, if you can. Come with dimes and dollars—or a check if you prefer to keep a running tally of your purchases and pay only once. It’s also suggested that you bring a basket, box, or empty flat in which to carry your purchases. If you have any questions, please give Ceil a call.

Bloomin’ Corners 2016: Friends & Fiddles & Fiddlers

The BGC held its Bloomin’ Corners Benefit and Raffle on March 11 at the traditional location, the beautiful Longue Vue Club in Verona, PA. One-hundred percent of the proceeds from Bloomin’ Corners go towards maintaining our signature corners and for community service projects, including donations to the BCA and the BSC. This year, the theme of Bloomin’ Corners was Friends & Fiddles & Fiddlers. The Benefit featured lyrical and lively fiddling by musician Vince Burns; fabulous auction baskets and raffle; cocktails and buffets with friends and neighbors; and our forest photo booth, featuring flora, fauna and folklore. New this year was a separate raffle of beautiful handmade and scavenger hunt. Menu highlights included a carving station with plum roasted turkeys and hams; starters, entrees, and sides featuring gnocchi primavera, double baked potato bites, roasted turkeys and hams; starters, entrees, and sides featuring gnocchi primavera, double baked potato bites, potato greens salad, roasted root vegetables, a truffle mix bar, and more.

Winners of the “Big” Raffle Prizes were:

• Design-your-own-getaway package at Nematicol (Value $425) Winner: Becky Matsey of Williamsburg Pl.
• Golf for four at Longue Vue Club— (Value $500) Winner: Carolyn Steward of Williamsburg Pl.
• Drink and Dine— (Value $400) Winner: Ashlee Epleen of Williamsburg Pl.
• Golf for two at Longue Vue Club (Value $500) Winner: Matt Dickey of Orlando Pl.

For photos, other raffle winners, and further information, please visit www.blackridgegardenclub.com.

Garden Club Calendar:
Saturday, April 16, 8:30 AM, BCA Parking Lot: BGC Spring Spruce-Up Day

Tuesday, April 19, 7:00 PM, BCA: BGC Organic Pest Control Lecture

Wednesday, May 11, 7:00 PM, BCA: BGC Annual, Not-To-Be-Missed, Plant Auction