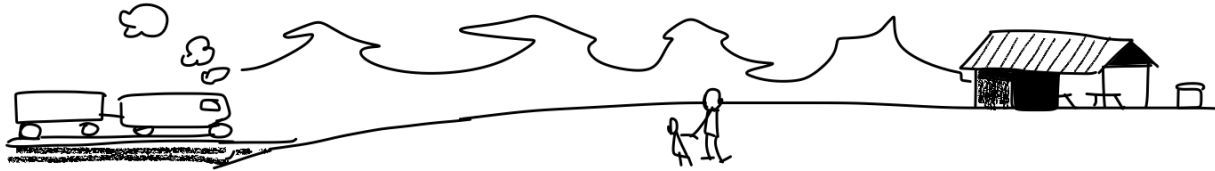


Berkshire Hills Civic Association (BHCA)

Spring 2018 Newsletter



Hello, neighbors! It's that time of year again. The weather's getting warm and the BHCA dues box is making its annual appearance at the corner of Creek and Junction.

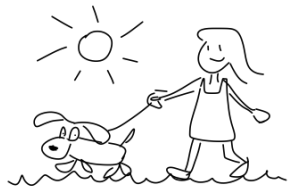
Dues this year are \$30 per household. Our expenses this year will be approximately \$2,750, which breaks down as follows:

- \$1,800 for the contractor who mows the park
- \$550 for insurance
- \$300 for electricity to power the pavilion
- \$100 for parts to repair the pavilion and playground, ads for the yard sale, and neighborhood events

Every bit of your dues goes to supporting our neighborhood!

What is BHCA?

If you're new to the neighborhood, you may not know about us. We are a nonprofit group of friends and neighbors here in Berkshire Hills. Our biggest job is to take care of Kiehn Park, aka Berkshire Hills Park, which lies between Ashley Drive and Creek Road. It features a powered pavilion with picnic tables, a grill, a baseball backstop, a basketball hoop, a playground, and plenty of open green space. We also organize our annual spring yard sale and occasionally host events at the park.



Why Join BHCA?

Technology and busy schedules have made it harder than ever to know our neighbors. Joining BHCA is one way to foster the friendships that turn our neighborhood into a true community.

Kiehn Park is our park. Paying our dues will help it remain so. By joining together, we ensure we have a say in how it is used. As BHCA members we also have the right to reserve the park and pavilion for private events.

Even if you don't use the park regularly, you can appreciate that its use determines the amount and kind of traffic coming through our neighborhood. The resulting safety and noise considerations affect us all. Also, the fact that we have a green space has a positive impact on our property values and quality of life. Have a voice! Please join BHCA this year and encourage your friends and neighbors do to the same. Let's work together to keep Berkshire Hills quiet and safe.

The next BHCA meeting will be in September at the pavilion. We'll announce the exact date closer to the event. All are welcome.

If you're interested in joining the board or helping at the park, please get in touch using the contact information below. Our board has become quite small. We encourage you to get involved. With more people we could do more, such as welcome new neighbors and host more varied, fun events.

Bridge News

Carroll Township demolished the Creek Road pedestrian bridge on April 16 after finding it had dangerously deteriorated. Norfolk Southern received payment from the township to tear down the wooden and steel structure and haul it away. The township reserved the right to erect a new bridge on the old concrete abutments, which were found to be in good shape. Per the township engineer, a new steel truss bridge will cost approximately \$226,000. The township supervisors said they were open to neighbors and other interested parties helping to identify funds for a replacement; however, there is currently no organized effort to bring that about. In fact, the May township Board of Supervisors meeting was the first since this issue arose in which the bridge was not discussed.

Informal talks with the supervisors suggest they want to see wide support for a replacement, extending to communities beyond ours. We know the Harrisburg Bike Club and the Messiah College Cross Country team used the bridge frequently in the past. The township would also want help doing leg work to identify and apply for grants to defray the cost.

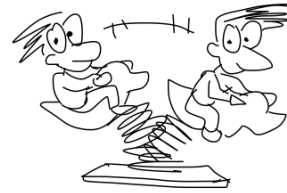
Kiehn Park News

We used to take turns mowing the park on BHCA-owned equipment. Now we see the value in hiring a service, but it's expensive and we can currently afford only the bare minimum. The new contractor has been mowing every other week. Our members have occasionally provided fill-in mowing, but the grass has been going crazy this spring and it's been a challenge.

There has been some vandalism at the park for the first time in a long time: graffiti on the bridge abutments, barriers, and picnic tables; trash in the grill; and dumped junk at the end of Creek Road. We've been actively monitoring the park, painting over and sanding the graffiti, and clearing away junk and trash. If you

happen to notice problems, please report them using the contact information below.

In more uplifting news, this past winter we removed a tree that fell on the pavilion. More recently, we cleared the fallen tree and vines that had climbed all over the backstop. This summer we plan to finish repairing and painting the pavilion. If you are interested in helping, please contact us. There is plenty of work to do and we appreciate any help we get



Contact Us

Please send us your email address to receive this newsletter by email.

Our email address is
berkshirehillscivic@gmail.com

Our website is www.berkshirehillscivic.org

You can follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/berkshirehillscivic

You can reach us by phone at 717-502-8792.

Our next meeting will be in September at the pavilion. We will send the exact date and time by email, Facebook, and the chalk board closer to the event.

Thank you for reading this, and best wishes for a happy summer!

Sincerely,
The BHCA Board

Vicky Church
Christina Cutright
Lesa Kennedy

Joe Rizzo
Audra Sieber
Beth Zeisloft