

# Berkshire Hills Civic Association

## Spring 2020 Newsletter

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Website: <http://www.berkshirehillscivic.org/>  
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### Happy Spring!

It's been great seeing all our neighbors out and about, more so than usual in recent weeks. The neighborhood yards and gardens have been especially beautiful this spring now that many of us have more time to take care of them.

The weather's getting warmer and we're getting more daylight, slowly but surely.

If you need any help during the stay-at-home period, or if you are willing to help others who need it, please let us know. Thanks to those who have already offered to help!

### Park Update

The playground and pavilion are closed until further notice in accordance with Carroll Township and state guidelines. However, the ball field remains open for anyone looking to enjoy some green space – following social distancing guidelines, of course.

Thanks to Terry Throne for helping to mow the park! If anyone else would like to do the same, please contact us so we can make arrangements with the mowing contractor. He's already aware that neighbors may chip in from time to time. **Each time we mow it saves the Civic Association \$120.**

### Event Update

The yard sale and the spring BHCA meeting were cancelled this year. We will tentatively hold a September meeting at the pavilion, if social distancing guidelines are relaxed.

### Dues For 2020

We realize that the COVID-19 situation has put financial strain on many families, including some in Berkshire Hills. Unfortunately, it hasn't changed our yearly operating costs, the details of which are on our website at <http://www.berkshirehillscivic.org/finances.html>.

The dues box will go up soon, but you can pay right now via PayPal! Simply go to [www.berkshirehillscivic.org](http://www.berkshirehillscivic.org) and click the PayPal link on the left.



It's a **secure** and **fast** way to make an electronic payment from the comfort of your own home. You can either pay with a credit card or with your own PayPal account. Dues are still just **\$30** for the year, all of which goes to taking care of the park. Please remember to check the "Share your mailing address" box so we know you paid:



Share your mailing address with Berkshire Hills Civic Association so they can acknowledge your donation.

We expect income to be down this year due to COVID-19, likely worsening a negative cash flow situation that we've had for several years. That being the case, we would greatly appreciate any extra contributions.

## Dogs

Dog walkers, please be careful to collect your dog's waste and take it home with you. Several full bags have been found at the park as well as in neighbors' yards. Having to dispose of someone else's dog waste is unpleasant for anyone, to say nothing of accidentally mowing over it. Please be conscientious and take care of it yourself.

## Board Members

We need more board members. Please contact us if you are interested in any of these positions:

**Park Maintenance:** Monitor the park, fix vandalism, replace or remove worn playground equipment, and either cut down fallen trees or arrange to have them cut down. Coordinate major playground and pavilion repairs (see below). If needed, find a contractor to mow the park, though we currently have one.

**Greeting new neighbors:** Welcome new neighbors, get their contact info, and explain to them that joining BHCA helps take care of the neighborhood and the park. Maintain the neighborhood contact list.

**Picnic coordinator:** Pick a date for the fall picnic and notify everyone. Purchase hot dogs, hamburgers, beverages, and condiments. Folks normally bring sides, desserts, and place settings. Bring some kickballs and footballs for the kids.

Our challenges:

- We've had negative cash flow in recent years. Less than 50% of the households paid dues in 2019. At this rate we'll run out of money within a few years. We've done what we can to reduce expenses and try to communicate the need. Bottom line is we need more neighbors to participate.
- The pavilion needs major repairs. The exposed west wall is falling apart and has been subject to a recent break-in. The plywood patches around the door are a stopgap -- it needs replaced. The north edge of the roof is rotting away and the gutter is falling off. The light cover needs replaced.

## **Contact Us**

Our contact info is at the top of this newsletter. Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable spring!