

## **An Open Letter from the Civic Association Board**

1 October 2014

Dear neighbors and fellow residents of Berkshire Hills,

We are regretfully approaching the point where we, the Board Members, must give serious consideration to dissolving the Civic Association. We wanted you to be aware of the reasons and consequences before we must make this decision because each of you will be affected by this action. First, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to those neighbors who have faithfully paid the yearly dues. Without you we would have not made it this far.

If the Civic Association is dissolved, as per the deed, possession of the park and playground will revert to Carroll Township. As such, we as a neighborhood will no longer have any control over these areas. Should the township use the land for an auxiliary athletic field, we would have no recourse over the increase in traffic traveling through the neighborhood, noise and litter. As it will be public property, we will have no control to keep undesirable individuals or activities in check as we now can as a private park. The quiet green space that we have known and often taken for granted will be gone. Perhaps the township will erect a municipal storage facility. It is anyone's guess. The Board truly hopes not to see these changes.

This dilemma has been coming for a number of years. Each year, fewer and fewer of the 100 homes in Berkshire Hills pay the \$30 dues. In 2014, one third of the residents have not contributed to the association for the betterment of the neighborhood. Due to the decrease in membership through the years we have had to eliminate social activities, children's parties and reduce new neighbor welcome gifts. We are now approaching the point where we are concerned about covering essential obligations such as insurance, grounds care, maintenance, and repairs.

We, the BHCA Board, request that each of you reflect on what you want this neighborhood to be like in the years ahead. We sincerely hope you feel your neighborhood is worth the yearly dues commitment. For those wishing to contribute beyond the dues amount, it will be gratefully received.

The dues box will be re-erected by the Baker's for two weeks after this mailing for your convenience.

Thank you,

Berkshire Hills Civic Association Board