

**WHAT'S NUW? – COME TO A COMMUNITY MEETING ON JUNE 19TH TO FIND OUT MORE!**

Many of you may have heard about Neighbors Unite Wilksburg (NUW) during the 2005 elections. NUW is a non-partisan, grassroots Political Action Committee to encourage Wilksburg residents' participation in local government. What started as informal "living room" meetings for a group of neighbors who were dissatisfied with the direction of the government in Wilksburg, grew into a Political Action Committee that made quite a splash into the political scene in Wilksburg in 2005. In addition to getting all of their endorsed candidates endorsed by the Democratic Committee in Wilksburg, they were actually able to get a new Mayor elected & also 3 new council members.

NUW's goals are to:

- Recruit & support candidates for Local Office
- Enlist new members for NUW
- Report on the Borough's current leadership

NUW's Platform is that we will support candidates who:

- Insist on responsible fiscal management
- Encourage redevelopment
- Stabilize borough personnel management
- Cooperate with state & county government
- Uphold professional ethics

NUW's work is far from over. 2007 is our next local election & there will be 4 Wilksburg council seats on the ballot – 2 of those in the 1st Ward. Please join us for a NUW Community meeting at BCA Clubhouse on Monday June 19, 2006 at 7:00 pm. There will be representatives from NUW & the recently elected NUW-endorsed local officials available to meet & answer questions about how you can get involved in making Wilksburg a better place to live.

If you can't make the meeting, you can still get involved. Contact Alexis Nedley at 412-371-3628 or Donna Bour at bour@nauticom.net, or simply fill out the following information & mail it to: NUW, c/o Alexis Nedley, 409 Hampton Ave., Wilksburg, PA 15221

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I can spread the word by passing out flyers

I can host a coffee at my house

I will display a yard sign

I can contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ (payable to NUW)

**BEAT THE HEAT THIS SUMMER!**

Join the **Blackridge Swim Club!!**  
This year only, families new to the Blackridge Pool can join for just **\$150!**  
4 different membership types available for returning members!  
For an application:  
Contact Kathy Schenkel at  
**412-371-8755**



**MASON'S TREE SERVICE**

*Many thanks to the community for your continued business*

**Removals:** Trees, Stumps, Shrubs

**Pruning:** Emergency Services

Fully insured & **FREE** estimates

Call: **412-464-8030 or 412-521-2530**

★ **B52 CLUB WINNERS!** ★

\*\*\* Week #8 \*\*\*

Pamela Grimm  
Squirrel Hill, PA

\*\*\* Week #9 \*\*\*

Sharon Reeker &  
Mary Beth Bowler  
Pittsburgh, PA

\*\*\* Week #10 \*\*\*

Gabriella Kline  
**Blackridge**

\*\*\* Week #11 \*\*\*

Jill Fink  
Pittsburgh, PA

\*\*\* Week #12 \*\*\*

Dana Luksic  
Monroeville, PA

Tickets for the B52 Club are still available & may be purchased at a discounted rate. For more information go to: [www.blackridge-bca.org/b52/b52info.htm](http://www.blackridge-bca.org/b52/b52info.htm) or 412-731-6518

→ **CLASSIFIEDS** ←

Need firewood for your fireplace or backyard fire pit? Face cord 4' x 8' x 18" \$120 Half Cord - \$65 Delivered Call 412-721-1981

It's Scrap Time! Have you been on vacation lately? Graduated? Married? New baby? Are your photos sitting in piles or in boxes? Join the world of scrapbooking! Host a Get Together & earn FREE Products! Lisa Lockrem - 412-243-4005 or [www.mycmsite.com/lisalockrem](http://www.mycmsite.com/lisalockrem)

Time to Feel Better? Start today with Shiatsu or Trigger Point therapy. Twelve years experience. Body Harmony Massage therapy. Marcia Smith - 412-871-5388

K & M House Cleaning  
Free Estimates, Affordable Rates, Quality Work  
References Available  
Call 412-491-0563

THE BLACKBOARD  
c/o Sarah Kuharik  
1632 Georgetown Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235

PRSR.T. STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH PA  
PERMIT NO. 1557



This issue has been generously underwritten by Coldwell Banker Real Estate. Many thanks for their kind support!

**THE BLACKBOARD**  
JUNE/JULY 2006

FROM THE <sup>new</sup> EDITOR(S)

Hello Everyone! Just a quick note to let everyone know about some new developments... First, the amazing Tara Taylor has stepped down as editor of the Blackboard, & we're picking up the reins - we hope we can do 1/2 as good a job as she did! Also, there've been some changes in format - the sleek, streamlined newsletter you're now reading is the 1st attempt at finding a size & layout which is a bit easier to produce & mail, while still being informative (& hopefully entertaining) - let us know what you think. Finally, we want to thank everyone for making us feel so welcome here - it's only been a few months since we went from never having heard of Blackridge to living in our "dream home" here (thanks to the help of our incredible agent Kendra, another Blackridge resident), we already feel very much at home. We really feel that this neighborhood is something special, & we're excited to be a part of it. Thanks to everyone we've met so far, & we can't wait to meet the rest of you!

-Sarah Kuharik & Damon Mahon, Editors

**NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES**

by Bill Miller, BCA President

Another Strawberry Festival/Annual Meeting/Election has come & gone, & most of the existing board was re-elected to another term. There were, however, two significant departures this year with Judy Schryer & Melanie Szigethy both leaving after many years & much commitment to Blackridge.

Melanie spearheaded a group of moms (& eventually the whole neighborhood) to rebuild the park & playground. On her own, she located a funding source in Kaboom!, resulting in a refurbished park & playground. (If only it were that simple...) I can only talk about Judy's involvement since my time on the board, but during that time she worked on the park & playground project & this year took on the B52 project as her mission. She walked door to door in winter to get tickets sold, selling over 40 tickets on her own, & when she wasn't doing that she was burning up the phone lines taking phone orders. Over the years she has kept us all focused on the mission of the board - how things used to be & how we could make things better in Blackridge.

These two illustrate what it means to be members of a community. They, along with the rest of the board, volunteer their time to make Blackridge special. Speaking of volunteering, when you're president of the BCA some people think you're the president of the complaint department AND the customer service department. From the complaint department please keep in mind some of the issues that have been brought to my attention (that I can apparently do something about):

Since we live in a community rather than on an island by ourselves (not my words), remember that not everyone appreciates loud music. Apparently some other people are not fond of loose dogs roaming & doing you-know-what on other peoples' yards. Cars parked on the street, at intersections & stop signs apparently gets under some peoples' skin. If you have a loud bird... Well, you get the point. As for customer service, please participate in some of the upcoming activities sponsored by the BCA. There's a lot going on in the next few months. Have a great summer!

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**ANNUAL BLACKRIDGE YARD SALE!!**

Saturday, June 10, 8 – 3

Dust off those trinkets and pull out those old toys, because one person's junk is another's treasure, & it's time for the annual Blackridge Yard Sale!! Share a driveway with your neighbor or try to have two or three houses in a row for better results. The cost is \$7.00 for BCA members, \$10.00 for non-members. To participate in the yard sale or help organize, contact Ceil Greber **NOW** at 412-247-5828.

**4TH OF JULY BIKE PARADE!**

Tuesday, July 4, 10:00 AM

Come one, come all - get out your bikes & meet at the corner of Collins Road & Williamsburg Place around 9:45. Everyone & everything can come decorated if they want (bikes, kids, dogs, family members)! The Churchill Fire Department will lead the parade to the BCA Park where there will be hot dogs, refreshments & lots of fun! The pool will also be open, so bring your suit & cool off. Call Ceil Greber at 412-247-5828 if you plan to attend, would like to help, or have any ideas.

**DOWN UNDER FAMILY PICNIC AT THE PARK**

**Blackridge Australian Wine Tasting**

Saturday, July 15, 6:00 PM - ? @ Blackridge Park

July's theme is Australian Wines (beer is also welcome). Everyone can share the wine/beer & food that the residents bring, & enjoy a short presentation about the theme wine. Just bring a glass, food for grilling &/or appetizers to share, a picnic basket (plates, utensils, etc.), & 1-2 bottle(s) of the theme wine. The picnic is open to all, but you must be 21 years old to participate in the wine tasting. What better way to meet your neighbors & learn more about wine (& more importantly, drink it)? If interested in attending, contact Ashlee or Burris Esplen: [abesplen@juno.com](mailto:abesplen@juno.com) or 412-241-6367. RSVP recommended but not required.

**CONCERT IN THE PARK**

August 13, 4 – 8 PM

Don't miss jazz legend Harold Betters from 4-6 & our own local celebrities Cadillac Mac from 6:30-8. We are selling ad space in the programs - contact Ashlee Esplen at 412-241-6367 or [abesplen@juno.com](mailto:abesplen@juno.com) with anything from business to happy birthday to congratulations. Also contact Gretchen Morris at 412-243-7713 or [gncmorris@comcast.net](mailto:gncmorris@comcast.net) to help with organizing, setup, etc.



To have an ad or article printed in the Aug/Sept issue please submit it by July 15. Contact [bca.blackboard@gmail.com](mailto:bca.blackboard@gmail.com) or 412-242-5126 with any questions.



## JUNE AND JULY IN THE GARDEN

Judy Diorio, Blackridge Garden Club

As our area of the state is expected to endure drought conditions this summer, I thought I'd pass along a few tips for conserving water and still producing a healthy, gratifying garden:

- Improve your soil structure by adding organic matter, such as compost. To tell you the truth, most gardening ills can be helped by this Holy Grail (organic matter/OM.)
- Use mulches, such as shredded bark in a two inch to four inch layer around your plants. A moderate thickness of organic mulch will decrease water-seeking weeds, keep the soil cool, & decrease water evaporation & deadly soil compaction.
- Avoid large areas of lawn & of bedding plants; both are water & fertilizer hogs. On the areas of lawn you do have, accept a level of brownness in droughts. Use a well balanced low analysis organic fertilizer (such as the widely available Espoma products, like PlantTone) to build a healthy root system in lawns & other plants. Avoid using high nitrogen fertilizers for lawns. They promote leaf growth. With a healthy root system, the green will come back when the rains do.
- Keep plants healthy by proper fertilization & pruning. A thriving plant can survive with less water.
- If possible, use a cistern, a water barrel, or any other means of catching rain water. (Check these water collectors to make sure mosquitoes are not breeding in them).
- When you do water, remember that watering in the early morning is far more beneficial than in the heat of the day when much evaporation occurs. Use soaker hoses wherever feasible. They water the root zone, which is most critical.
- I'm running out of space, so I can't recommend specific drought resistant plants this issue, but anyone with access to a computer, a good gardening text, or a library will be able to find many suggestions for annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, ground-covers, & vines that thrive in drier conditions in our zone. Have fun with your planning & selections!

## NEW GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS

Lil Huguley of Old Gate Road will serve as president of the Garden Club for the coming year. Elected by the entire membership in May, she was installed at a brief ceremony at the group's June meeting.

For the past two years Lil served as vice-president of the Garden Club & also chaired the annual Bloomin' Corners spring benefit. She joins Adrienne O'Toole as the only former Blackridge Civic Association presidents to go on to head the Garden Club.

Shelley Grotzinger is the new vice president with the remaining members of the executive committee continuing in their current roles.

Doris Raimondi & Toni Kinkella are the recording & corresponding secretaries.

Rose Guerrieri repeats as treasurer & Sonny Bobula as her assistant.

W. Thomas Borellis is the consulting landscape architect.

A reorganization meeting of committee chairs making up the executive board will be held at Wilkins Township Panera Bread on Friday morning, June 16.

## 2006 BCA MEMBERS

### Thanks to All Who Have Renewed Their Membership (As Of May 17th):

Paul & Claudia Agnew	Les Fossick & Jeffrey Audrey	Elizabeth & Jeffrey Lawrence	Dan & Karen Risher
Mary Lou & Ken Antol	Ed & E. J. Foster	Gary & Barb Liberati	Carl & Cindy Rothenberger
Susie Barbour & Rich Dugan	Audrey Franzetta	Jeff & Laura Liebmann	Peter & Terri Rubash
David & Linda Bauer	Jay Gamze	Pat & Jerry Lowry	Judy & Tony Schryer
Mary Lou Benedetti	Albert & Arlene Gardill	Draga Luksic	James & Ellen Shanley
Jo & David Benn	Joseph & Jodi Geyer	Damon Mahon & Sarah Kuharik	Dan & Ronni Slain
Marcy Birchard	Bonnie Gillis & Randolph Peters	Bill & Mary Anne Marchl	Stephanie Snyder
Kathleen & David Bissonette	Jennifer Gold & Sherry Kring	Joseph & Gaynell Markowski	Glenn & Lorraine Speece
Winifred Bobula	Erik & Kris Graybill	Jeremy Martinson & Janette Lamb	Eric Steadle & Nancy Miller
Tom & Lee Borellis	Ceil Greber & Gerri Hays	Elsie Mavrovic	John & Barb Stember
W. Dennis & Penny Bossick	Michelle Greenwalt & Evan Rowles	J. Robert Maxwell	Carolyn & Alwc Stewart
Andrew & Francine Bovard	Michael & Patricia Grieco	Helen May	Susan Stitt
Dan & Kendra Bumblauskas	Alvin Griffin	Gladys & Marvin May	Michael Stoehr & Linda Loar
Gaye Burkett	Eric & Shelly Grotzinger	Kathleen McClure & Kathy Straccia	Chip Suggs & Kathy Powers
Betty Carlson	Lieselotte Grundmann	Kathleen McClure	William & Jennifer Suiters
Bob & Barb Caughey	Rose & Tom Guerrieri	Jim & Edith McElfish	Steve & Jennifer Swenson
Bob & Carol Chufo	Bruce & Joyce Hapke	Jim & Carmel McFarland	Ken Tarasi
Michael Ciavarella & Dorthea Stevens	Eileen Hardy	Anne Messner	Robin & Amy Teets
Rick & Marcia Conley	Bill Judy Hasselmann	Pamela Meyer	Julia Toner
John & Kate Connolly	Susan Hersh & Cathy Gazzo	Bill Miller & Gary Pete	Joseph & Judy Toth-Diorio
Chuck & Carol Danley	Marjorie Hershberger	Anne Morton	James Trusilo
Vanessa Davis	John & Sheila Mozer	Marie Hickam	Tom & Darlene Turner
Ed & Cindy Delehanty	Neal & Lil Huguley	Linda Myers	Sam & Elaine Viggiano
Peter & Nancy Delpresto	Eric & Heather Itle	Dick & Denise Myers	Louise White
Joe & Helen Destefano	Theodora Jaffurs	Maxine Niehoff	Rebecca Whitinger
Bruce & Teodora Dietrich	Paul & Patti Johnson	Earl Novendstern & Maria Piantanida	Margaret Wickerham
Don Dillon & Maureen Madden	David & Dalanee Kennon	Carl & Shari Ogburn	Alan Wille
Marlene Dolecki & MaryBeth Dolecki	Pamela Kimmel	Ken & Connie Olmstead	Russell & Julie Williams
Nina & Alex Dow	Mary Lou Kinkella	Susan & James Omslaer	Gerry & Reg Wilson
Charlie & Debi Drummond	Roselyn Kline	Edward & Adrienne O'Toole	Bill & Laurie Winslow
Peter & Elaine Ellis	Marshall Klotz	Margaret Parsons	Sherry Wright
Burris & Ashlee Esplen	Richard & Dorothy Koon	Jean Peterson	Daniel & Erika Zajdel
Doris & Burris Esplen	Ronald Jody Kotun	Alex & Dolores Powell	Julia Zangrando
Madeline Eyster	Peter & Colleen Kullen	John & Helen Powers	Theodore & Noreen Zupka
Joe & Sue Fish	Kathleen Larson & Ron Vulgris	Charles & Michele Puzanchera	
Kathy Flood	Jim & Jan Lavine	Bob & Jenny Randolph	

## NINE BIG MISTAKES WHEN SAVING FOR RETIREMENT

Wednesday, June 21, 2006 - 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Wine & Cheese Reception @ Blackridge Community Center  
 RSVP: Call (412) 281-3800 (ext. 143) or  
 Email: angela.monfredi@agedwards.com

You'll learn valuable investment information at this educational event. If you're like many investors, you probably can't afford to make too many mistakes when preparing for your retirement. But many people do make mistakes, such as:

- Underestimating retirement income needs
- Incurring unexpected health care expenses
- Neglecting the effects of inflation on investments

Even if you're making one of these costly mistakes now, it's not too late to work toward turning things around & get back on track to meet your goals.

Attend our free seminar to learn how.

During this presentation, you'll hear about other common mistakes such as:

- Miscalculating expenses during retirement
- Having unrealistic investment expectations
- Relying solely on investment returns



**Janet James, AAMS**  
 Financial Consultant  
 janet.james@agedwards.com  
 www.agedwards.com/fc/janet.james

## Thanks to Trinity Christian 6th Grade!

by Melanie Szigethy

The 6th grade class & a few high school students from Trinity Christian School did an outstanding job cleaning the parking lot of the BCA & the park. On Thursday, May 4, 2006 at least twenty students & their teacher, Kristin Rozebloom, tackled the leaf clearing, weed pulling, & litter removing jobs at the playground. They brought their own rakes & work gloves & performed a tremendous service for this community. We are thankful to volunteer coordinator Janine McGuire & the staff & students of Trinity Christian School for making our park a better place to recreate.

## In-Home Massage Therapy



Are you stressed and tired?  
 Do you need to relax?  
 Have a massage in the privacy  
 of your home or mine.

Detox your body and feel great!  
 Find out how many toxins are in your body.

Call **Hedy E. Esplen, P.T.A. M.T.**  
 Certified Massage Therapist and  
 Instructor at Butler CCC

**412-243-3154**

Email or call to find out about specialized types  
 of massage treatments that are done.  
 haeburch@hotmail.com

Message parties also available...FUN TIME!

**\$5 off**  
 for first-time  
 clients.

## BLACKRIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION

### OFFICERS

President .....	Bill Miller
Vice President .....	Ceil Greber
Vice President -	
Membership .....	Ronni Slain
Secretary .....	Jennifer Suiters
Treasurer .....	Mary Lou Benedetti
Ways & Means .....	Gretchen Morris
Buildings & Grounds ..	Draga Luksic
Rental Director .....	Draga Luksic
Newsletter .....	Sarah Kuharik
Historian .....	Open
<b>MEMBERS-AT-LARGE</b>	
Churchill .....	Lee Borellis
.....	Ashlee Esplen
.....	Michelle Greenawalt
Penn Hills .....	Amanda Veoni
.....	Joe Modaffari
.....	Denise Grabner
Wilksburg .....	Dan Crawley
.....	Gretchen Morris
.....	Open

### BLACKRIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION - 2006 REVENUE AND EXPENSE TREND

	Jan-06 (Actual)	Feb-06 (Actual)	Mar-06 (Act/For)	Apr-06 (Act/For)	May-06 (Act/For)	Five Month Totals	Full Year Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>							
Membership Dues-BCA		1,725	1,400	40	1,020	4,185	\$ 8,400
Donations & Misc Income		695	555		280	1,690	3,000
Rental Revenue	1,931	835	2,745	2,885	2,867	11,263	34,800
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 1,931</b>	<b>\$ 3,255</b>	<b>\$ 4,700</b>	<b>\$ 2,925</b>	<b>\$ 4,167</b>	<b>\$ 17,138</b>	<b>\$ 46,200</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Maintenance	240	550	160	340	340	1,630	\$ 6,850
Facilities Maintenance	528	726	402	570	1,100	3,326	12,000
Trash pick-up	286	288	290	294	270	1,428	-
Taxes & Insurance	1,604	758	768	758	1,590	5,478	3,244
Telephone	80	71	54	56	95	356	1,140
<b>Total Occupancy</b>	<b>\$ 4,088</b>	<b>\$ 3,669</b>	<b>\$ 2,965</b>	<b>\$ 2,485</b>	<b>\$ 4,270</b>	<b>\$ 19,643</b>	<b>\$ 23,234</b>
<b>General Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 63</b>	<b>\$ 223</b>	<b>\$ 63</b>	<b>\$ 292</b>	<b>\$ 151</b>	<b>\$ 792</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Loan Expense</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>2,109</b>	<b>\$ 4,704</b>
<b>Total Operating Exp.</b> [incl. Loan Exp.]	<b>\$ 4,560</b>	<b>\$ 4,302</b>	<b>\$ 3,449</b>	<b>\$ 3,209</b>	<b>\$ 4,858</b>	<b>\$ 20,378</b>	<b>\$ 35,138</b>
<b>Net Income/Loss [Rev. - Exp.]</b>	<b>\$ (2,629)</b>	<b>\$ (1,047)</b>	<b>\$ 1,251</b>	<b>\$ (284)</b>	<b>\$ (691)</b>	<b>\$ (3,240)</b>	<b>\$ 11,062</b>

## 2006 BLACKRIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Your support of the BCA is critical to the Blackridge Community. Membership & donations help to provide the means to maintain the Clubhouse building & grounds, pay taxes & utilities, mow the grass in the park, & assist with keeping the pool open. Membership & donations also ensure our ability to sponsor programs like the Concert in the Park, Fall Festival, Holiday Park, & other fun events.

BCA Membership Dues 2006 (01/01/2006 to 12/31/2006) Annual Renewal/New Member Form

Dues support programming, Park & Playground maintenance, Clubhouse upkeep, taxes, etc.

Names of Adult members: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership type: \_\_\_ Family (\$40) \_\_\_ Senior (\$25)\* Included is an additional contribution for the BCA Capital Fund \$\_\_\_\_\_

\* if all family members are over age 60

Please send a check made payable to the Blackridge Civic Assoc. to: Ronni Slain 1523 Williamsburg Pl. Pgh, PA 15235