

THE BLACKBOARD

BLACKRIDGE CIVIC ASSOCIATION • JAN/FEB 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

BGC "Greening of Our Future"

Tuesday, March 6th, 11:00 am
BCA Clubhouse

BCG Bloomin' Corners Benefit "House Party"

Friday, March 16th, 7:00 pm
Long Vue Club

BCA Beef & Beer Newcomers Party

Saturday, April 14th (tentative)
7:00 pm, BCA Clubhouse



Rent the BCA Clubhouse for your special event. Reserve early. Dates fill up fast. Discounted rates for BCA members.

Call 412-241-9569 or e-mail bcarentals@hotmail.com for rates and additional information.

Blackridge Civic Association Board of Directors

President - Jennifer Suiters
Vice President - Ceil Greber
Treasurer - Ron Kotun
Secretary - Julia Ryman
Webmaster - Sarah Kuharik
Vice President Membership - Sarah Kuharik
Vice President Buildings & Grounds - Vacant
Rental Director - Vacant
Newsletter - Gary Pete
Historian - Cathy Taylor

Members-At-Large:

CHURCHILL – Lee Borellis,
Damon Mahon, Vacant

PENN HILLS – Steve Jurman,
Olivia Tassone, Amanda Veoni

WILKINSBURG – Judi Roth,
Julia Ryman, Vacant

President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had great holidays!

Blackridge Clubhouse Gets a Facelift!

I am pleased to announce that thanks to the hard work and dedication of Judi Roth, Bill Miller, Nancy & Peter DelPresto, Sue Fish, Jeff Fossick, Steve & Jeanette Jurman, Diane Law, Julia Ryman, Cathy Taylor, Judy & Tony Schryyer, Geoff Suiters and Habitat for Humanity we will have some nice improvements to the building. You will be amazed by what paint, new ceiling tiles and a little elbow grease have done for the building!

Judi Roth helped to assemble a team to paint the entire ballroom, board room and hallway with the help of Habitat for Humanity. Thanks to the generosity of Habitat for Humanity, all of the primer and painting materials were donated, and Habitat helped us to purchase ceiling tiles at a much needed discount rate. Judi also coordinated sewing new draperies by modifying draperies donated by Bill Miller.

We even made the WTAE news, if you'd like to see the clip, click on the link below:

<http://www.wtae.com/video/30225478/detail.html>

These improvements will provide a much needed facelift to the building and will improve our rentals. Many thanks to this team and especially Judi because a lot of planning, work and coordination were required to pull this off.

Events Update

Gingerbread House Building

On November 20th thanks to the efforts of Cathy Taylor and Ceil Greber we hosted our first annual Gingerbread House event. This was a great new family event which was very well attended!

Blackridge Light Up Night

On December 17th thanks to the efforts of Sarah Kuharik, Damon Mahon and the Blackridge board we had luminary kits delivered to BCA members for the Light up Night. This was a fun event for everyone to socialize for the holidays

Bloomin' Corners – Friday, March 16th at 7:00 PM at the Long Vue Club

Help support our Garden Club keep the neighborhood corners beautiful by attending this wonderful event and purchasing raffle tickets. The prizes are always fabulous and this year will be especially fun with Howie Alexander on the jazz piano, tapas, and a cool birdhouse contest. Check out the Garden Club website for additional details at:

<http://www.blackridgegardenclub.com>

Beef & Beer – Saturday, April 14th at 7:00 PM at the Clubhouse

Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 14th at 7:00 PM at the Clubhouse. This is our annual event for newcomers and a wonderful event to enjoy beef, beer and meet new and current neighbors. This year we will celebrate with a beach party, so bring out your flip flops and Hawaiian shirts!

Membership

Lastly, I would like to encourage everyone to purchase their annual Blackridge Civic Association Membership. Please help to support community activities like the Beef & Beer Newcomers Party, Strawberry Festival, Fall Festival, Fourth of July Bike Parade and the Neighborhood Yard Sale by joining the Blackridge Civic Association.

As always additional donations help us to keep our facilities up to date and provide fun events for everyone.

You can pay your dues by mailing a check to BCA Membership Campaign, PO Box 10684, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 or online with pay pal using a credit card at www.blackridge-bca.org.

Jen Suiters
President, Blackridge Civic Association
jinyfaliny@verizon.net





BLACKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB

Are You as Psyched for the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden as We Are?

Join the Blackridge Garden Club to hear about the wonderful work completed, the latest developments, and the near future opening of the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. On Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at our 11:00 AM meeting at the BCA, we will feature a speaker from the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden. This is a free program, but we would appreciate a response if you would like to attend, so that we can plan for the luncheon. Please call EJ Foster at 412-241-5955 if you are interested. See www.blackridgegardenclub.com for more information.

January and February in the Garden

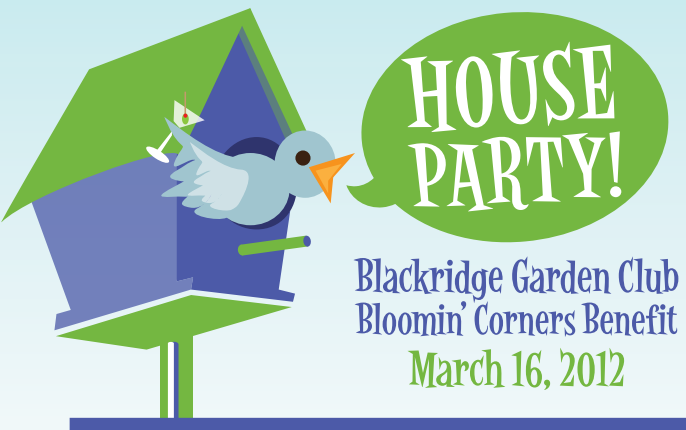
Judy Diorio, Blackridge Garden Club

Healthy soils are vital to healthy plants and to a healthy ecosystem. We should cultivate topsoil which is relatively dark in color, active with microorganisms, nutrients, and organic matter (OM), and generally has a pH between 5.5 and 7.5. As Blackridge's typically clay soil structure is improved by decomposing OM, our soil absorbs moisture that would otherwise run off, causing erosion and a loss of nutrients for both plants and beneficial soil organisms. Good soil structure also provides channels through which water and air (Remember that roots need air.) can filter to greater depths to reach plant roots. OM continually decomposes, so adding it must be a continual process.

If you wish to have your soil tested for pH and nutrient levels, you can find details on how to do so at <http://www.aasl.psu.edu/SSFT.HTM>. Soil test kits can be purchased from our local Allegheny County Cooperative Extension Office at 400 North Lexington Street in Pittsburgh (412-473-2540.)

If your soil test results recommend additional nutrients, add them just before planting in the spring. If you regularly add OM to your soil, you will decrease your reliance on chemical fertilizers, since OM promotes a gradual release of plant nutrients. OM alone, however, will not always provide sufficient nutrients for plants. Organic fertilizers may also need to be incorporated into garden soil. If your soil test results suggest finely ground lime for your soil, the lime should be worked into moist soil two to three months prior to planting.

When you peruse your seed catalogs and visit local nurseries, remember that the roots of native flora have evolved in our soil, and are better at resisting the stresses of our area. Native plants require less time to flourish because they are already acclimated to the nutrients found in our area's soil. They will require less fertilizer, and there will be less need to change the soil's natural properties. Native plants should be able to subsist on natural rainfall, decreasing the amount of overall water consumption needed to keep your garden healthy and beautiful.



Blackridge Garden Club
Bloomin' Corners Benefit
March 16, 2012

Bloomin' Corners 2012: House Party!

New Time, New Format, New Raffle Options, and Birdhouse Contest!
Live! Howie Alexander on Jazz Piano!

The BGC holds only one major fundraiser each year, our Bloomin' Corners Benefit and Raffle. 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 is House Party and we are holding it at 7:00 PM on Friday, March 16, 2012 at our traditional location, the beautiful Longue Vue Club in Verona, PA. What isn't traditional is that we are having an evening cocktail party and buffet instead of a sit-down luncheon and fashion show. We welcome singles, couples, and groups of friends to join the fun, and to help us raise funds for the upcoming year.

Blackridge residents, BGC members, and neighboring garden clubs will be receiving their invitations and raffle tickets in the mail in late January. If you are outside that group, and would like to receive an invitation, please send an email to blackridgegardenclub@gmail.com to request one.

We will offer drinks and tapas-style buffet stations while guests enjoy the music of Howie Alexander and peruse our "big" raffle, basket auctions, and especially our contestants' birdhouses which will be on display. We welcome all individuals and teams (such as families, clubs, art classes, couples, church groups, etc.) to build a birdhouse and enter our contest to be able to win some great prizes and to have your birdhouse on display at one of our Blackridge corners. We would like to know of your intention to enter by February 13, and the birdhouses will be due on March 5. Complete rules and the judging rubric are listed on our website www.blackridgegardenclub.com. Please help spread the word about the benefit and the contest to your friends.

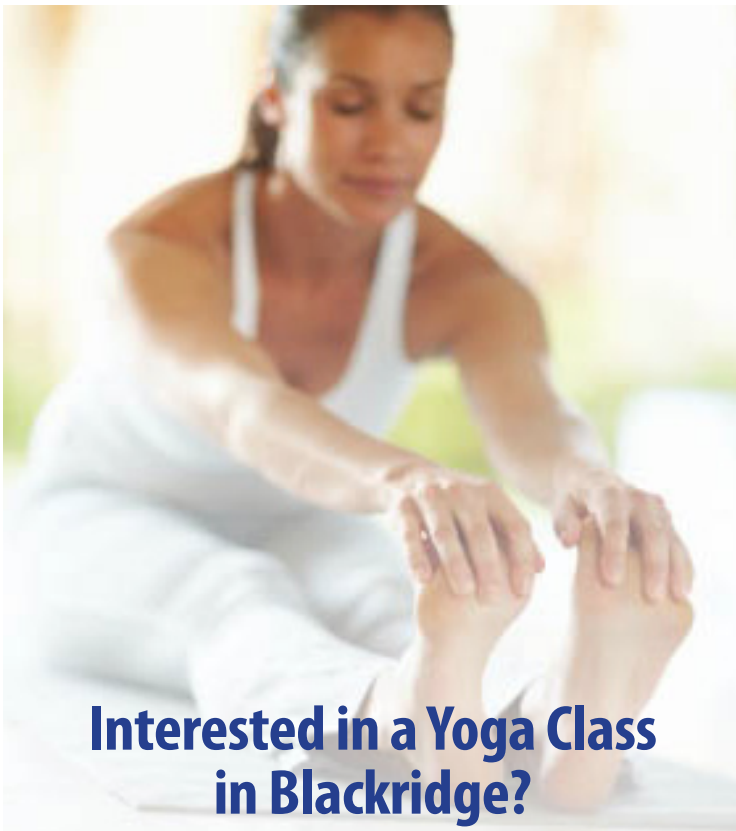
Our "big" raffle prizes this year include a basket of cheer, a round of golf for two—including two carts and lunch—at Longue Vue, a two-night stay with complimentary Crystal Room breakfast each morning—at Omni Hotels & Resorts Bedford Springs (award-winning spa, nature retreat, and golf course), and a cash prize of \$200.00. You don't have to be present at (or even to attend) the cocktail party part of the benefit to be able to wind the raffle. We hope all Blackridge residents will support us, as they have in the past, by purchasing raffle tickets. We are trying something new by allowing you to select which prize you would like to try to win with each ticket you purchase.

Reservations for the benefit will remain at \$35.00 per person and will include two cocktail chits plus open access to soft drinks and our yummy tapas-style buffet stations, where you can serve yourself as you please from a pretty extensive and hearty spread. The menu is listed in full on our website, www.blackridgegardenclub.com.



Neighbor Joe DeStefano Featured in "This Old House Magazine"

Blackridge resident Joe DeStefano was inspired to build this birdhouse for his sister who collects birdhouses and lives in Florida, after reading an article in "This Old House Magazine". Joe worked on it an hour or two at a time and it took about five months to complete. He used thousands of pieces of wood, individually cut — making bricks, flooring and roof tiles individually. Adding windows, railings and other details gave it a more refined appearance. After a letter to the magazine to thank them for their inspiration, Joe received a call from the "This Old House", asking for his permission to run his story, a photo of his creation, and to be featured as "The Project of the Month" for the September 2011 edition. Congratulations, Joe! Hopefully this will inspire other neighbors to enter the Garden Club birdhouse contest! See www.blackridgegardenclub.com for details.



Interested in a Yoga Class in Blackridge?

Hi. I'm Danielle Trauth-Jurman and I've lived in Blackridge my whole life. I am currently a sophomore in college and I am a certified Yoga instructor. I teach multiple classes at a recreation center as well as at a senior center at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. This summer I would love to offer yoga classes for residents of Blackridge — either group classes at the BCA or individual Yoga classes in your home. If you're interested please call my mom and dad—Jeanette Trauth or Stephen Jurman @ 412-731-7944 and let them know and I will be in touch with you. Remember...YOGA is for ALL ages! Thank you!

Join the Blackridge Civic Association

With more than 600 households, Blackridge is a great place to live and play... and with your membership and support, we can work together to make it even better! Please join or renew your membership today!

Since 1946 the Blackridge Civic Association has made an impact on our neighborhood and we need your help to continue the tradition.

Your yearly membership in the Blackridge Civic Association is used to strengthen the Blackridge community and support activities, events, and initiatives throughout the year, including the Beef & Beer Newcomers Party, Neighborhood Yard Sale, BCA Newsletter – The Blackboard, BCA Website, Concert in the Park, Chili Challenge, Fall Festival, Light Up Night, and more.

Please feel free to make a contribution greater than the suggested amount. You will help the BCA to achieve that much more!

Dues are not tax deductible. Membership year runs January 1 to December 31.

Jeff Fossick PAINTING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR

412-377-3398

We Do Plaster Repairs

T. L. Fossick Landscaping

Lawn Cutting • Planting • Mulching
Edging • Seeding – New Lawns

FALL CLEAN-UP AND SNOW REMOVAL

Call Tom at 412-377-2790 or
412-829-1812

C L A S S I F I E D S

PET CARE – Long time Blackridge resident.
Excellent references. Insured.
David Kissell (412) 371-9544

2012 BCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Annual Household Membership – \$40
- Annual Senior Household Membership – \$25
(Dues payable in a calendar year January 1 – December 31)
- I am a renewing member
- Please include me in the Blackridge Directory
- \$ _____ Additional donation to BCA Building Fund

Please return this form with payment to BCA Membership,
P.O. Box 10684, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 or join online with Pay Pal
using Visa or MasterCard at www.blackridge-bca.org.

Adult Name: _____

Profession: _____

Adult Name: _____

Profession: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ unlisted

E-mail: _____