

Dear Blackridge Neighbors & BCA members,

We are writing to you today to ask for your support in the revitalization of our unique community asset, The BCA Clubhouse. The BCA has had a very positive impact in our communities during its lengthy history. Recently, if not for the BCA organization hosting public forums, we may have been dealing with fracking at the defunct Churchill Country Club. Instead we have the promise of the Allegheny Land Trust green space which will increase property values & is a healthy plus for all residents. Community support through dollars already donated will enable this reality.

As many of you are aware, our soon-to-be 70 year-old BCA clubhouse is in a deteriorated condition. The BCA Clubhouse, which in the past has provided a wonderful community resource for many family and social events as well as a much-used community meeting place, is no longer suitable for renting. Rentals of the facility are a significant portion of our annual revenue. Our goal is to restore this worthwhile community asset to rentable condition.

Membership has traditionally has also been one of the strongest revenue sources for the BCA. We thank those of you who have already joined the BCA for 2020. We are asking for those who have not already renewed their membership or would be new members of the BCA to join at this time. Blackridge Swim Club members have been a major part of our membership for the past several years. BSC members, who have not renewed their BCA memberships due to the pool not opening for the 2020 season, need to be aware that the BCA must stay viable to assure that the pool will also be able to open in the future. The BCA depends on the BSC memberships, donations, and volunteers to survive. The BSC needs the BCA as a partner organization for land and other benefits. Both are necessary for the ongoing success of our community organization. Neither organization will exist without the other. BSC members, please renew your 2020 memberships during this midyear Membership Campaign.

The other major component of the BCA revenue stream are the donations from the members of our community. As the first step in revitalization we have been awarded a \$150,000 grant by the county for a new roof & HVAC for the clubhouse. This is the first of many improvements we are seeking to accomplish in the next few years with ongoing pending grant requests for the building, grounds, and pool. This grant requires the BCA to purchase two advertisements in a printed newspaper to announce the bidding process for contractors begins. These ads will cost over \$1,100. The BCA is not allowed to use grant funds to cover the cost and is required to pay for these ads.

We must begin the bidding process as soon as possible to have the roof completed before winter arrives. We are requesting donations to cover this immediate need and for ongoing operating expenses that may be incurred. We are a 501(c)(3) organization & all gifts (above membership dues) may be tax deductible. Please consider a donation of \$50, \$100, or \$200 to the BCA Capital Campaign for these immediate financial needs and help us begin this revitalization of the clubhouse for future generations.

Attached is a membership/capital campaign donation card and a pre-addressed envelope. Please fill it out with your contact information and return it to the BCA even if you are not able to join and/or donate at this time so you can stay informed on community events and updates.

Sincerely,

Dirk Page, BCA President
on behalf of the Board of Directors

FAQs for 2020

Why is the BCA conducting a mid-year membership drive?

The BCA usually gets two waves of membership renewals. One in January/February and a second wave in May/June when the Blackridge Swim Club receives the brunt of their registrations. This year the BSC is not opening due to COVID. Because of this, a lot of those members have not joined, and the BCA membership is very low due to that.

What are my membership dues used for?

Membership dues are used to pay for utility bills, small repairs, and other expenses to maintain the BCA. No one is a paid employee of the BCA. Almost all the work is done by volunteers. We only call in professionals if/when the job is too big or there is an expertise beyond that of the volunteers.

What do I directly get for my money?

Normally the BCA has several events throughout the year. Unfortunately, the Beef 'n Beer, the Strawberry Festival, and bike parade / 4th of July picnic were canceled. The Neighborhood Garage sale is still going on and we still hope that we will be able to hold our Fall Fest and Gingerbread House Party later this year. The park is still open for public use and if you need to rent the space at the BCA, you receive a reduced rate.

Why are we running a Capital Campaign?

Due to COVID, our membership count is down, and we have not been able to allow rentals of the facility for the last 3 months. These are our two largest income streams. One requirement of the \$150,000 grant is that the recipient (the BCA) pays for the advertising of the bid. It is our "skin in the game." With a very low revenue stream, we do not have the \$1,100 to pay for these adds in the bank. We need the help of our members and friends to pull these funds together.

When will the roof project be completed?

Our hope is the Capital Campaign will raise the needed funds by mid-August. The bidding process (required by the grant) takes a month. We are hopeful that the construction will take place in October.