

BRADDOCK HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 243
Braddock Heights, MD 21714

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BRADDOCK HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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Join the BHCA Today!
Membership information below.

Membership Information

Ask your neighbors if they are members of the BHCA. If not, tell them for \$35 annually they get bimonthly newsletters containing important information regarding the Braddock Heights community. They also will have voting rights at general meetings in issues involving their community. The BHCA provides a strong voice on important issues such as pedestrian safety and the growing traffic problems. We also sponsor community events throughout the year. Check the newsletter calendar as we always need volunteers. Our community heads can always use additional help with their committee duties. Contact Tom Dixon at 301-371-5690 for more information. Tell your neighbors to join now and get involved in their community!

Send dues to: P.O. Box 243, Braddock Heights, MD 21714-0243

BHCA Directory

President: Doug Sims, 301-606-3326
Vice Pres.: Mark Koltz, 240-490-7951
Treasurer: Jody Koogle, 301-371-0558
Secretary: Tom Dixon, 301-371-5690
Pool Comm. Chair: Lisa Tosh, 301-371-9721
Program Comm. Chair: Tom Dixon, 301-371-5690
Property Comm. Chair: Mike Cottrell, 301-371-7827
Member Comm. Chair: Doug Sims, 301-202-5547

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Campbell, 301-371-7806
Mike Cottrell, 301-371-7827
Bev Donald, 301-371-7501
Daryl Happ, 301-371-8078
Doug Jacocks, 301-371-9664
Penny Jacocks, 301-371-9664
Karen Koltz, 410-440-5932

Mark Koltz, 240-490-7951
Caroline Milam, 240-409-3189
Jon Soule, 301-371-7914
Lisa Tosh, 301-371-9721

For **BHCA Facility Reservations**
410-440-5932

POOL NEWS *Continued from page 3*

All information will be discussed at a committee meeting and forwarded to Michelle of Serenity Pool Management.

The Pool Committee has several *sub-committees*: *Technical, Pool Polices (Rules), Marketing, Pool Operation/Maintenance, Summer Splash, Facebook and Playground Equipment*. FYI: Anyone may participate as a sub-committee member without being a Pool Committee member. Please let us know if you would like more information! Or, you could attend a meeting (no commitment) just to meet the group and assess your interest level. (Sub-committee members do not need to attend monthly meetings!) We meet monthly at my house, in Braddock Heights, on the second Tuesday of each month (except for the month of December) to discuss and resolve issues, as well as plan and implement necessary improvements. Snacks & beverages are provided. Meetings typically last 1 1/2 hours and, while the agenda is usually packed, the atmosphere is casual and there are a lot of laughs.

Lisa Tosh,
Pool Committee Chairperson
pool@braddockheights.org
301-371-9721



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Fellow Braddock Heights Residents -
The BHCA Board of Directors and Officers are hopeful you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As I enjoyed a feast with friends and relatives, I reflected on how thankful Karen and I are to be living in Braddock Heights. Each time we have friends visiting from afar, they leave telling us how fortunate we are to be living in such a nice area. We are sure you feel the same.

The Park, Pool and Pavilion were prepped for the winter by an enthusiastic group of volunteers who showed up with rakes, saws, shovels, tarps and lots of gusto. In short order, the job was done. Your Board of Directors is grateful for the spirit shown during this event and we look forward to the same enthusiasm come spring when we prepare your facilities for the summer 2016 season.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, you will find pool information for the 2016 season. You save money by completing your application in January 2016 on both the primary member fees and guest passes. Also, since we have reached capacity the past few years before the pool opened, you are urged to complete your applications as soon as possible. Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis and closes when we reach 400 memberships. "Early bird gets the worm."

When you visit the Community Center, you will see on the left front of the entry, a plaque commemorating the devoted service of John Smariga who passed away earlier this year. John was remembered for his dedication to making Braddock Heights the kind of place where we want to live and raise our families. He was instrumental (actually the driving force) in getting the Community Center built and each time we open the door, we will remember the effort he put into that facility. Of course, he wasn't just about the Community Center ñ he served many years on the Board and devoted countless hours helping at the pool, in the park and with the pavilion. There wasn't a part of BHCA properties with which John didn't help maintain or improve. To John, we say, "Thank you. Well Done!"

Penny and Bill Jacock (new Board members) and Lisa Tosh and Mike Cottrell (returning members) were elected to serve the coming three years on the Board of Directors. Thanks to them for stepping up and volunteering to serve. We certainly appreciate their service.

Finally, your Board of Directors wishes you a very happy holiday season.

Doug Sims,
President

BRADDOCK HEIGHTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (BHHS) NEWS AND INFORMATION

The annual Braddock Heights Community Dinner & Auction was held on November 21st at the newly reopened Braddock Inn (check them out on Facebook or www.thebraddockinn.com). Not one seat in the back room was left empty (54 people in attendance) as we enjoyed great food, prompt service, fun socializing, and an exciting auction. A big thank you to Carlo and Heather Dan and their staff ... we could not have asked for a better night. The event would not have been possible without generous donations from local Braddock businesses, artists, and community members. A big shout out to The Braddock Inn, My Red Bow, Brightside Yoga, InBloom Jewelry, Fred Stephens, Bombshell Salon, The Bicycle Escape, Bike Doctor, Lebherz Oil & Vinegar Emporium, and Isabelle Glass for their support.

All proceeds from the spirited bidding benefited the Braddock Heights Historical Society. The highlight of the evening was the fierce battle for design rights to the 2015 and 2016 Christmas tree ornaments. Two more original Braddock homes will be represented. They will be available for sale at the Post Office along with previous year's ornaments and BHHS material. Bill McCutcheon, Mona Thiel, and several other members of the community donated numerous historical Braddock items that attracted great interest. Peter Brooks had the highest bid of the night (besides the ornaments) and took home a lovely framed picture of Braddock Heights Park and The Grove of the Golden Stars. A nice color version of "Hie on up to Braddock" also saw lively bidding, finally going to Frank Goldfield. Neil Sandler even came away with an original brochure from the Braddock Heights Ski-Way.

Continued on page 2

BHHS NEWS *Continued from page 1*

It was a wonderful night of community and history. Proceeds help the BHHS to preserve and continue researching the landmarks, structures, historic areas, and memorabilia in Braddock Heights. The society develops educational programs and is hoping to have a walking/porch tour of the community in 2016. We hope the porch tour will provide a glimpse into Braddock Heights' history and showcase the beauty of our wonderful community. If you are interested in participating or helping out, please contact Mark Koltz at markkoltz@gmail.com or 240-490-7951. In the meantime, please reach out and share all Braddock Heights memories or memorabilia for our archives.



BHCA ELECTION RESULTS

The BHCA held its annual membership meeting on Monday, November 2, at the community center. This meeting included elections for new officers, board members and pool committee members as well as approval for the 2015-2016 budget. Jody Koogler volunteered to serve a two year term as BHCA Treasurer, and Mark Koltz offered to step up as the BHCA Vice President for 2015-2017. Meanwhile, Mike Cottrell and Lisa Tosh agreed to additional three year terms as BHCA Directors. Larry Cover signed up for a three year term as a new member of the pool committee, and John Kosch, Frank Lebherz and Ric Paxton signed up for additional terms as members of this key committee. **Thank You!** to all who have offered to serve new / additional terms.

The BHCA budget for October 2015-September 2016 was also approved at the general membership meeting. This budget includes \$253,855 in total expenses, broken down into \$177,755 in operating expenses and \$76,100 in capital expenditures. 75% of the operating budget is devoted to management and maintenance of the Braddock Heights pool. The largest item in the capital expenditures budget is an allocation of \$45,000 for the first two phases of a playground improvement project that will be kicked off in the spring. This \$45,000 includes \$25,000 that was rolled over from the 2014-2015 capital budget, as a result of us not getting the playground improvement project started in 2015. If you would like to receive a copy of the detailed 2015-2016 budget, please contact Tom Dixon at 301-639-3903 or thomasadixon@comcast.net.

BRADDOCK HEIGHTS FACILITIES - 2016 PRICE UPDATE

The BHCA Community Center and outdoor Picnic Pavilion are the perfect spots for your next event. They are ideal for hosting showers, meetings, parties, and picnics. You can learn more about the facilities on the BHCA web site (www.braddockheights.org/facilities). Please note that Community Center events are limited to 50 people, due to parking limitations. The BHCA facilities are available for rent only to BHCA members. Renters must be existing members or can apply for membership (\$35/calendar year) at the time of rental.

Price updates for 2016:

Facility	Timeslot Available for Rent	Cost
Community Center	9 am until 4 pm	\$100
Community Center	5 pm until 10 pm	\$100
Community Center	9 am until 10 pm (all day)	\$150
Picnic Pavilion	9 am until 10 pm (all day)	\$60

VISIT THE BHCA ONLINE!

This past summer we launched our updated website at www.braddockheights.org which features everything you need to know about the BHCA. Every page displays our Facebook feed and a list of Upcoming Events on the right sidebar with directions to our facilities and BHCA contact information on the page footer.

Our homepage displays a few vintage views and a brief history of Braddock Heights. The black menu bar across the top of the site provides drop-down lists under each category. For example, you can download the most current version of the BHCA By-Laws by clicking **About the BHCA > BHCA By-Laws**. The **About the Pool** drop-down list displays useful information such as the 2016 policies and rates, as well as links to the Barracuda Swim Team web site. You can learn how to rent the Community Center and Picnic Pavilion by clicking **About the Facilities**.

About the Historical Society contains information related to the Braddock Heights Historical Society. We have two new links: **Neighborhood Links** is a new feature listing contact information for organizations and businesses based in Braddock Heights. Our community has a rich history, and we also have a vibrant present that we would like to support. If you would like to add an organization to our listing, please send an email to president@braddockheights.org; and **BHCA Blog**. Our first blog entry introduces Doug Sims, our current BHCA president.

Additionally, you can like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BraddockHeightsCommunityAssociation where we post details about upcoming events in Braddock Heights. During the summer months, we post pool-related information. If you would like to share something to be posted on our page, please send an email to pool@braddockheights.org.

SWIMMING POOL NEWS

Summer Splash!! - Kudos to **BEV DONALD**, who ran another fun memory-making Splash event. We didn't have door prizes or the balloon toss this year, but kids loved diving for more coins (truly 'cash and carry!') and the new hula-hoop contest that lasted a good 40 minutes!

Bev has decided to step down from the chairperson role of the Summer Splash. We are looking for a volunteer to help plan and lead this annual event. YOU can name the time and date of next year's Summer Splash! Bev Donald, Mary Mills, and I promise to be very willing sub-committee members.

Mark Your Calendars:

- BHCA Spring Park & Pool Clean Up - Date to be announced!

We are always looking for volunteers to help us make the park and pool ready for the season. Remember, the BHCA is a volunteer, not-for-profit organization. In order to help keep BHCA and Braddock Pool membership fees as low as possible, the more volunteer help we have, the less money we have to pay others to complete the necessary work.

- Pool Opening - Saturday, 5/28/16
- Pool Closing - Monday, 9/5/16

New Pool Management Company: We have been very happy to work with Michelle Marzullo of Serenity Pool Management. However, she has decided to close her doors and open another chapter of her life. CONTINENTAL POOLS is our new pool management company. They are looking forward to working with any interested and qualified lifeguard and gate guard candidates from Braddock Pool! Simply complete the online application on their website: www.continentalpools.com and note that you were referred/worked at Braddock Pool. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Blaislie Ruescher, who is the staffing coordinator. Her phone number is: 800-640-0062 and her e-mail address is: blaislie@continentalpools.com. There will be an open house in Frederick on 2/6/16, at Taskers Chance Pool, with on-the-spot interviews, discussions regarding pool location preferences and training dates, a drawing to win free training or a free uniform, and music and refreshments!

We are aware that e-mail addresses do change. SO, please let us know if you changed your e-mail address, so we can make note of it in our database used for announcements. Simply send us an e-mail to: Pool@BraddockHeights.org.

Membership for 2016: We will have the same pricing structure as for the 2015 season. Feel free to check out our updated Pool Brochure: <http://braddockheights.org/about-our-pool/pool-membership>.

Our volunteers on the Technical Sub-Committee plan to have the revised 2016 Pool E-Application ready for retrieval im-

mediately after New Year's Day. Look for an e-mail informing you that we're alive. Of course, you can check us out on the website at any time: www.braddockheights.org. You will have the opportunity to purchase an unlimited amount of discounted guest passes, usually \$5.00 each, for only \$3.00.

For the second year in a row, we reached our membership cap within one week of pool opening. Please mark your calendars for early renewal for the 2016 season. Remember, we do NOT hold spots from year to year.

If you would like a paper application mailed to you, please contact our volunteer in charge of membership: Tom Dixon (301-639-3903).

Deadlines for 2016: [NOTE: COMPLETED APPLICATION = Full Payment + Photo(s) of all persons on the membership]

January 1 - 31, 2016 - 'Early Bird Special' (For all returning and new members)

- Primary Member Dues = **\$250.00** & (6) FREE guest passes
- New Members will receive an additional (6) FREE guest passes. NOTE: available *during January only*.

February 1st through April 1st - Primary Member Dues = **\$285.00**

April 2nd until membership limit is reached - **\$320.00**

Pool Policies - the sub-committee met to revise our pool policies for 2016. The biggest change is NO SQUIRT GUNS will be allowed. Many people had a little too much fun in and on the pool deck. It was disruptive to other members and a safety issue, since guards had to address continually the misuse of the guns.

Improvements - We are researching the possibility of investing in a permanent shade structure for an area of the pool and we plan to add another robot to clean the pool overnight. We also plan to replace another (18) lounge chairs, the small diving board stand, and all the Plexiglas dividers between the baby pool and the main pool. If you have any suggestions for what you would like to see at the pool, we definitely want to hear from you! Simply send an e-mail to pool@braddockheights.org and we'll respond!

Facebook - We hope you found it helpful to check us out under 'Braddock Heights Swimming Pool.' We plan to try to keep you informed of any fun happenings throughout the year, as well as pool closures: www.facebook.com/BraddockHeightsCommunityAssociation

Comments, Compliments, Complaints?? We invite you to please feel free to contact us at any time to share your comments and concerns, or ask any questions about the pool and pool management. You may contact me at 301-371-9721, e-mail us at pool@braddockheights.org, or mail your suggestions to: BHCA, P.O. Box 243, Braddock Heights, MD 21714.