

# Brier Crest News

Brier Crest Woods Property Owner Association, Inc. • HC 1, Box 500 • Blakeslee, PA 18610

3rd Issue

Brier Crest Woods Property Owner Association, Inc.

Winter 2010

## President's Message

By: Dan DaCunha

Greetings to my fellow Brier Crest Woods owners. I was elected President of the Property Owners Association on October 09, 2010, at a board meeting, after the annual meeting. I am happy to be able to serve this organization and its members in this role and pledge to work to make this the best place to live in the Poconos. A list of all current board members elected at the meeting is posted in the newsletter and on our web page. As I begin this new role, I need to thank all of the previous board members for the hard work they have done to get us to where we are today. Remember that the Board members volunteer their time to serve and improve the community for all of us.

As I am writing this, the trees in BCW are showing their beautiful fall colors. The reflection on Lake Shangri La is just gorgeous. I hope everyone enjoys the beautiful fall weather which brings with it a chill and the expectation of winter.

Since this is the last Newsletter of 2010, I would like to recap some of the challenges and the great times in our community recently.

The community picnics held on Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends were very well attended. The weather was perfect and all who attended had a great time. The entertainment kept many dancing until after dark. Approximately 400 hamburgers and 300 hot dogs were prepared and served at each event. That's not counting all the delicious dishes supplied by our owners. Great weather, great food, great entertainment, and great people. Does it get any better than that?

The cooler weather at BCW this summer was a great respite from the brutal heat we experienced east and south of the Poconos. The beach was a very popular place to be. Residents and guests enjoyed the refreshing lake water.

I love to see families walking our road ways enjoying the weather and beauty we are have in BCW. I would encourage everyone to look out for the pedestrians.

Let's keep our community a safe place in which to walk or jog.

The building addition has crept forward slowly due to challenges we had getting the

appropriate permits. As of this writing, we are very close to getting our permits. Work has started on the siding of the building, with volunteers doing most of the work, to enclose the building before winter. Once the permits are issued, we will make a determination on whether to continue construction this year or wait until spring of next year.

The maintenance staff is busy preparing the trucks, salt spreader, and plows for the winter snow. Salt and anti-skid is currently arriving.

We have begun cleaning out swales and drain pipes of leaves and other debris. The 9 plus inches of rain we received this October showed us where additional work was required in repair and adjustment to the swales. We also identified some damaged drain pipes under driveways that need repair and/or replacement.

The area behind the community building is presently be cleaned up in preparation for relocating the dumpster and the recycling bins to that site.

A lot of work has been done and will continue to be done by dedicated staff and volunteers to maintain and improve the community. We really count on the many volunteers that work to maintain our community. They pick up trash along the roadways, plant flowers at our entrance, stock our lake with fish, do fund-raising for community improvements, organize social events, provide backhoe and other equipment for large and small projects, work on the improvements on the community center, serve on the boards and committees appointed by the boards and give their time to make our picnic a memorable time, just to name a few things. The list goes on and on. Much thanks to all volunteers for the work that you do.

Up next is our anticipated winter holiday season. My wish is that everyone takes the time to remember the reasons for each of the holidays. Make some quiet time for yourself. Remember your childhood and help make memories for those around you. They will always remember you!!

Thank you for your support! I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, or Happy Hanukah and Happy New Year. And, safe travels for wherever life takes you.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL PROPERTY OWNERS:

PLEASE PASS THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS THAT THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE E-MAILED TO EVERYONE THAT HAS REGISTERED THEIR E-MAIL ADDRESS TO BRIER CREST WOODS

Anyone interested in advertising in the Newsletter, please call the office for information.

THERE WILL BE COPIES AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE.

Address: [Office@Briercrestwoods.com](mailto:Office@Briercrestwoods.com) Phone: 570-646-8802



**ATTENTION: BCW RESIDENTS**

Honor the Memory of a Loved one or a Family Member with a Personalized Plaque with their name on the Brier Crest Honor Roll! This Honor Roll will be displayed permanently in the Brier Crest Community Center. This honorarium begins with the purchase of an American Flag for \$50. The Flag will then be placed in service for sixty days or more. After having flown the flag at the BCW community building it will be retired, folded and placed in a "Shadow Box" suitable for a place of honor of your choosing. The box will also contain your love one's name and any special saying that you desire. If you so choose the box will be displayed in a place of honor in the BCW community or a place of your choosing.

HOMEOWNER

ADDRESS

PHONE#

HONORARY'S NAME

ANY SPECIAL SAYING:

**Board of Directors**

- Dan DaCunha, President
- Bob Wilson, Vice-Pres.
- Dan Edgar, Treasurer
- Mike Ruff, Secretary
- Pat Kager, Director
- Pete Sussenbach, Director
- Joe Voettler, Director
- Don Kintzel, Director
- Rick Pollock, Director

\*The Board of Directors Meetings are held the second Saturday of every month.

\*All residents are invited and welcome to attend all Board Meetings.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

*\*The list below may be changed in January 2011. \**

**Security:**

- Steve Pace
- Pete Sussenbach
- Paul Purtell

**Long Range:**

- Dan Dacunha, Chair
- Barry Beggs
- Harry Miller
- Steve Kager
- Anthony Bonsignore
- Don Kintzel

**Finance:**

- Dan Edgar, Chair
- Joe Vottler
- Barry Beggs
- Gayle Kimball
- Tim Boyle
- Michael Christofar

**Tim Crimmins**

- Diane Guinan
- Jerry Moore

**Lake:**

- Steve Kager, Chair
- Tom Kraft
- Ned Ramm

**Social:**

- Pat Kager, Chair

**Web-Site :**

- Dan Dacunha, Chair
- Diane Guinan
- Maria Delfi-Milano

**Roads:**

- Jerry Moore
- Barry Beggs

**Insurance:**

- Jerry Moore
- Diane Guinan

**Newsletter:**

- Diane Guinan
- Maria Delfi-Milano

**R & R /By-Laws:**

- Mike Ruff, Chair
- Jerry Moore
- Steve Kager
- Dan Edgar
- Rick Pollock

**Permits:**

- Jerry Moore, Chair
- Diane Guinan
- Paul Purtell

**Appeals:**

- Paul Purtell, Chair
- Steve Kager
- Bob Wilson
- Dolly Bradley (Alternate)

**Security Corner:**

Please remember to register your ATV and Golf Cart with security.

**Security Number : (570)-656-5583**

**Security Officers:**

- Joe Lynam
- Paul Connor
- Frank Grouzis
- Richard Goldstein

Remember to watch your speed and consider others walking on the roads, especially the Beach Area. This is a family community. **Watch out for our Children.**

Any complaints or suggestion please e-mail to :

**office@briercrestwoods.com**

Steve Pace, Chairman

**List of Services**

**Tunkhannock Township Volunteer Fire Co.**

**570-646-2265**

**Pocono Mountain Regional Police Dept.**

**570-895-2400**

**EMERGENCIES - Call 911**

**Tunkhannock Township - 570-643-3008**

**Pocono Mt. Regional Ambulance - 570-646-4181**

**PA State Police - 570-646-2271**

**Office Information**

The office is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Office: 646-8802, Fax 646-5772**

mail: [Office@briercrestwoods.com](mailto:Office@briercrestwoods.com)

Website: [www.briercrestwoods.com](http://www.briercrestwoods.com)

| The Shangri-La of the Poconos  
Brier Crest Woods Property Owners Association  
HC 1 Box 500 Blakeslee, Pa. 18610  
E-Mail: [office@briercrestwoods.com](mailto:office@briercrestwoods.com)  
Web-Site: [www.briercrest.com](http://www.briercrest.com)

Dear Brier Crest Woods Residents:

The 2011 Operating & Capital budget was approved by the Brier Crest Woods Board of Directors on October 9, 2010. The budget reflects a \$10 increase in annual dues in order to maintain the service level we all want and need to keep property values high.

The operating budget dues will remain unchanged for 2011 as we have been able to offset increasing costs for staff, the lake, insurance, vehicle expense, electric, oil and general maintenance expenses, primarily by bringing our accounting activities in house. We reduced our accounting expenses when we hired the accounting firm of Kirk Summa to replace our prior accountants and we were still able to provide to the members a full audit of our operations (something that had not been done in some years). That report has been made available to you all on the Brier Crest Woods web site. Finally, we hired a waste management consulting firm to help us control our waste costs, and the great part is that they are only paid a portion of the savings that are realized – it is a winning situation for both them and us.

The capital reserve dues will increase \$10 in order to meet our capital needs in the years to come. There are a few roads yet to be overlaid and in years to come we must begin the process of paving again.

To fund this proposed budget, the annual dues for homes will be \$700 per year, lots will be \$390, and adjacent lots will be \$300. The increase amounts to only about 20 cents per week. The invoices for 2011 Dues were mailed this week.

Very Truly Yours,

Board of Directors

**BCWPOA Agreement Form for Boat Rack Seasonal Rental**

Here at Brier Crest Woods, we require all boats to be registered at the office every year. In addition, we also rent spaces within our boat rack system for the season for \$10.00 per space. The racks are located opposite from the beach and swimming area. By signing this form to rent a space within the boat rack system, you are agreeing to the following:

1. Your boat has been properly registered in the office at BCW.
2. You will not place your boat in the rack prior to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You will only utilize the rack space assigned to you by the office.
4. You agree to remove your boat on or before \_\_\_\_\_.
5. You understand that BCW personnel will remove your boat within seven day of date listed in No. 4 above and that you release and hold harm less BCW from any damages that may occur.
6. You understand you will be notified by phone and regular mail of the removal and you will be responsible for a fine and removal cost totaling \$50.00. This must be paid prior to you removing your boat from the community building which must happen on or before \_\_\_\_\_.
7. You understand and agree that failure to comply with No. 6 above will result in a certified letter being sent to you to advise that BCW presumes that you intend to willingly abandon the boat to BCW and that Brier Crest Woods will assume ownership of the boat on \_\_\_\_\_. To prevent this from happening, you must pay the fine listed above plus an Additional \$50.00 of costs incurred by BCW. Thus, you must pay \$100.00 to BCW on or before \_\_\_\_\_. Failure to do so will result in your abandonment of the boat to Brier Crest Woods. BCW may thereafter sell or otherwise dispose of the boat and retain any proceeds there from.

I/ we, \_\_\_\_\_, acknowledge that I/we have read and accept the conditions as outlined above.

(Print Full Name of Boat Owner/s Here)

I/we agree to remove my/our boat from the rack on or before the specified date listed above. I/we understand that failure to meet the requirements set forth above can result in my/our loss of "good-standing" status within the community and will result in the abandonment of property.

**REQUIRED INFORMATION:**

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SECT: \_\_\_\_\_ LOT: \_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ ASSIGNED RACK SPACE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGNATURE/S) (DATE)

**To Reserve same rack for 2011, pay \$10.00 now. Boat Rack# \_\_\_\_\_. (Must be the same Boat Rack # used in 2010).**

***This form will be kept in the property owner's file in the BCW office.***



*Oldies Night*



The "Oldies Night Social on October 9th , sponsored by the Fishing Club, was a great success! Brier Crest Woods Association gives their thanks to all who attended the Party and to all the donors for Fishing Club Dinner \ Dance:

- Carlson's Country Treasures
- Catherine's Fine Country Crafts
- The Rowes Flowers and Gifts
- Albrightsville Flower Shop
- Mountain Clippers
- TI Nail & Spa
- Robert Christians
- Jubilee
- Brookstone Restaurant
- Terra Cottage Café
- TB 903
- Dom N Ali
- Platz
- Split Rock Resort
- Pocono Body Wellness Fitness Center
- Selig Center
- Murphy's Loft
- Ice House
- Hotel Jonas
- Skeeters Garden Center
- Paddy Kenny's Pub
- The Village Squire
- Louies Prime

A "Special Thanks" to:

The Cirrinicione Family for their donation of \$250.00 to the Fishing Club.

Barry Beggs for donating the delicious roast beef for the "Oldies Dance"

Bill & Diane Henfey for the donation of passes to their Silver Bullet Sight Seeing Boat in Wild Wood NJ

THE SPORTSMAN SENTINEL "POCONO HISTORY"

Published by "The Sportsman Motel, Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge at Blakeslee, Pa., in the Poconos.

Just to give a little history for those that are not aware of the days when the "Sportsman Restaurant" was one of the biggest restaurant in the Pocono area.

The Sportsman, begun in a modest way back in 1958, has literally grown and grown until it was comprised of seventeen luxurious motel units and three handsome housekeeping cottages, more than doubling overnight and vacation accommodations. The dining facilities was expanded to accommodate more than 300 persons.

Now, in its place is the "Blakeslee Inn", still carrying out in the same footsteps of the Sportsman with its fine food and dinning. \*If there is anyone reading this article that's remembers this restaurant & has anything they would like to offer in the way of their memories please email to the Brier Crest office.

Here is the article that was printed in the "Sentinel"

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

\*\*\*\*\*

The Great Sin -----FEAR

The Best Day ----- TODAY

The Best Town ----- WHERE YOU SUCCEED

The Best Work-----WHAT YOU LIKE

The Best Play-----WORK

The Greatest Stumbling Block ----- EGTOTISM

The Greatest Mistake -----GIVING UP

The Most Expensive Indulgence-----HATE

The Greatest Trouble Maker -----ONE WHO TALKS TOO MUCH

The Most Ridiculous Trait-----FALSE PRIDE

The Most Dangerous Man -----THE LIAR

The Greatest Need-----COMMON SENSE

The Greatest Thought-----GOD

The Cleverest Man

ONE WHO ALWAYS DOES WHAT HE THINKS IS RIGHT

BE A CLEVER MAN

Reminders:

1. Please do not place any branches in the swales! All branches may be placed behind the community building when "Maintenance employees" are on duty.
2. Pass the word to your friends and neighbors to give their e-mail addresses to the Brier Crest office, so they will get a copy of our newsletter.
3. If there is any property owner who does not have a copy of their deed on file in the Brier Crest office, please take the time to send it at your earliest convenience.
4. With winter coming on and of course, SNOW, please call security or office if anyone finds the hill is dangerous for driving on.
5. It is important that homeowners keep up on cleaning their skeptics systems out.
6. People that rent their homes:
  - Keep the rules/regulations handy for their renters
  - Security & police dept #'s
  - Keeping renter tags in their car
  - Reminding renters of recycling
  - Consider your neighbor for loud noise.

**\*\*Attention Brier Crest Homeowners\*\***

If you are **CURRENTLY RENTING YOUR HOME ON A PERMANENT BASIS**, we would appreciate it if you would stop in at our office and fill out a rental registration form or please inform your renter to do so. This information will enable us to send them a copy of our Newspaper. In addition this information could prove vital in the event of an emergency. Also, please do not forget to register your weekender/vacation rentals, along with rental fee at the office.

Thank You for your cooperation

**PETS BCW Rules**

All pets must be confined to the owner's property or on a leash as designated by Pa. Leash Law.

No pets are allowed on the beach, in the swimming area, or boat dock area.

All persons walking their pets off their own property are required to clean up after their pets.

Dogs must be licensed with the State after the age of six months or after being in the State for six months, in accordance with Pa. State Law.

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO ALLOW YOUR DOG TO RUN AT LARGE. ALL DOGS MUST BE UNDER CONTROL. OWNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL DAMAGES CAUSED BY THEIR DOG(s).

Homeowner's will be fined if they do not abide by the community rules & regulation on the above.

## Our Health Corner:

Today many seniors, and many soon to be seniors, are living active, healthy lifestyles and continue to make valuable contributions to our society. With that in mind, the "Senior Choice" program at Hazelton General Hospital was designed with a commitment to provide its members with educational, social, and healthy living opportunities to help them maintain their mental and physical vitality now and into the future.

If you are 55 years of age or older and are interested in becoming a member of Senior Choice, contact the Senior Choice Advisor at 570-454-4752. For more information, log on to [www.ghha.org](http://www.ghha.org) & click on Senior Choice under the Community Services tab, or check out the online community health calendar.



### **SOME HINTS ON DEALING WITH STRESS: *UNHAPPY HOLIDAYS?***

Surviving family gatherings and other seasonal stresses:

- Set realistic goals. This is key for keeping expectations simple-for yourself and other.
- Make a budget and stick to it. Financial worries add more stress. Don't try to keep up with everyone else. Spend what you can afford. Seek out free activities.
- Try not to overeat or drink excessively to escape stressful feelings. Eat healthy foods and get plenty of exercise.
- Pace yourself. The holidays are more than one day; spread enjoyable activities throughout the entire season.
- Try to stay in the present. Look forward to the future. Life is

full of change. Consider what is important in your life & good about these times. Don't se yourself up by comparing today with good old days.

Organize your time. Make a list & star the important activities. Be realistic about what you can & cannot do.

Honor your own feelings. Remember that the holiday season does not banish reasons for feeling sad or lonely. There is room for these feelings to be present.

Spend time with supportive and caring people. Don't waste your energy on "toxic" people or distant acquaintances.

Save time for yourself. Recharge your batteries. Let others share some of the responsibilities. ***If you need more coping tips? Go to [www.WebMD.com](http://www.WebMD.com) and search "stress".***

# The Greater Hazelton Health Alliance

is a not-for-profit healthcare system that is dedicated to providing high quality, state-of-the-art, customer-friendly healthcare services to the residents of the Greater Hazelton area and its surrounding communities.

In December 2006, Hazelton General Hospital and St. Joseph Medical Center merged to provide the community with the highest quality healthcare and the latest available technology without duplicating services, equipment, and costs. Although the merging of the two organizations marked the end of an era in healthcare, it provided tremendous opportunities to expand services and enhance patient care and safety through Hazelton General Hospital and its affiliated entities.

The affiliated not-for-profit entities of the Greater Hazelton Health Alliance include Hazelton Health & Wellness Center (for outpatient surgery, diagnostic testing, and rehabilitation services) and Hazelton Professional Services (a multi-specialty physician network). These organizations are committed to providing excellence in comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services by meeting and exceeding benchmark standards in patient-centered care, providing comfortable testing environments with exceptional staff experiences, and staying current with state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

Our vision and mission serve as the cornerstone of our healthcare system, guiding our actions as we surpass compliance standards and strive for excellence.

**PET CORNER:****Watch for these signs of illness**

Even though older pets can't talk, they will tell you when they're not feeling well. How? By exhibiting certain signs of disease. If you notice any of the following, contact your veterinarian to discuss whether your senior pet should make a visit to the veterinary practice.

- Changes in weight (especially weight loss)
- Decreased appetite or lack of appetite
- Increased water consumption
- Changes in elimination patterns (urine or stool)
- New lumps or bumps or swellings-or changes in existing ones
- Persistent cough
- Difficulty breathing or breathing heavily or rapidly at rest
- Sudden collapse or bout of weakness
- Difficulty climbing stairs or jumping
- Foul mouth odor or drooling
- Seizure, convulsion, or fit
- Pain

**Fear doesn't always equal abuse:**

If you adopt or purchase a dog that is older than 6 months and it is fearful, there's no way to be certain it wasn't abused. However, some dogs are genetically inclined to be more fearful. What's more, it's not uncommon for dogs to be afraid of men. Men tend to have deeper, more authoritative voices and their actions can seem more threatening than women's

Before getting a new dog from a shelter or breeder, speak with your veterinarian about which type is best for your lifestyle and your family. If you're adopting a dog, ask the shelter to provide as complete a history as possible. After your new dog comes home, work through any behavior challenges, including fear. The best way is to seek training advice from your veterinarian.

**Beware the Holiday Turkey**

Big feasts can mean bad news for our cat's belly. Feeding table scraps can cause stomach upset, vomiting, or worse. Gnawed bones can do damage to the stomach or intestines. Plus, those extra calories add up! It's best to keep your cat on his usual diet, and leave the people food for the people.

*The articles above were from the "HEALTHYPET" MAGAZINE!  
For more information please call toll-free (877)596-1919  
Please send letters to: HealthyPet magazine, 7777 Center Ave.,*

**Brier Crest Woods has joined the USTA! Please make "Tennis" a Community development.**

Anyone interested in tennis lessons, please fill the form below and send into the office.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Please respond and give "Tennis" a try.

Need tennis lessons call Joe Romano 643-7964 Thanks

**From Article By : Stephen Tignor  
Tennis.com**

Everything was better in the past. The statement can't be true, but somehow it makes us feel better to believe it and few people like to believe it as much as tennis fans. Wooded racquets slice backhands, serve-and-volleyers, even the profane bad boys and patchy Wimbledon grass of the 1970s—we long for all of it.

But if there was ever a time to put nostalgia aside and focus on the here and now, this is it. The pro game, and in particular the men's pro game, is in the midst of what might be called the Extraordinary Age. From winning streaks to Channel Slams to majors collected to aces hit to hours played: What seemed unimaginable a few years ago has become routine. Who would have believed at the start of the last decade, when there was a little order at the top of the ATP tour rankings, that over the course of five years two men would win 21 of 23 majors and hold the No. 1 and 2 positions for longer than any other duo in history? That one of them would own a record 16 majors while the other would win a record 93 straight matches on clay? And that they would each have earned a career Grand Slam, something that had previously been accomplished by just five other men?

The story of 2010 was the resurgence and eventual dominance of Rafael Nadal. The Spaniard had finished the 2009 ATP season at a personal and professional low point. After enduring multiple injuries and family problems, he'd lost all six sets he played at the ATP World Tour Finals in London. By March of 2010, though, there were signs of life in his beat-up body; he reached the semifinals in both Indian Wells and Key Biscayne. The dam finally burst in May, on the clay of Monte Carlo, where he stamped through the draw to win his first tournament in 11 months. After the final point, Nadal dropped to the court in tears. He had the winning feeling back, and he wouldn't let it go. From that point through the U.S. Open, Nadal put on one of the great sustained performances in tennis history. He reclaimed the French Open without dropping a set, made quick work of Tomas Berdych in the Wimbledon final and, serving more effectively than ever, surrendered just one set on the way to his first U.S. Open title.

For now, we're watching Nadal. When asked about the future, the Spaniard's characteristic reply is, "We're gonna see, no? We're gonna see more Rafa, which is the best part of this story. The Extraordinary Age may just be getting started.