

Brier Crest News

Brier Crest Woods Property Owner Association, Inc. • 117 Thornberry • Blakeslee, PA 18610

6th Issue

Brier Crest Woods Property Owner Association, Inc.

FALL 2011

President's Message

By: Dan DaCunha

This summer has been beautiful in the Poconos. We've received plenty of rain so the foliage is lush and green. So many people took advantage of the wonderful amenities at Lake Shangri La spending days swimming, fishing, boating or just lying on the beach enjoying the sun. We have had some challenges though- geese on our beach, water plants in the lake and some brief beach closure. Still, we have overcome these problems while maintaining this beautiful amenity.

Soon, fall will arrive bringing with it the beautiful foliage around our homes and lake. The cooler temperatures will provide opportunity for longer walks, hikes and drives around the Poconos. Enjoy! Winter will arrive all too soon providing opportunities for skiing and other winter sports for some.

The Brier Crest Woods Board of Directors has been busy working for you on some important items:

Holiday picnics: The Memorial Day and Fourth of July picnics at the lake pavilion were enhanced by some beautiful weather. Both were well attended and everyone had plenty of food and fun.

Still to come is the Labor Day Picnic scheduled for Saturday September 3, 2011 (rain date Sunday September 4, 2011). Food will be served from 4-6 PM with entertainment from 6-9P M. Please bring a dish to share. Hamburgers and hot dogs are provided by the community. Please wear your beach badges.

The building expansion: After months and months of delays, we've found solutions to the holdups. Construction is now in full swing with a planned completion date of October 2011. Liberty Homes is the general contractor and we have requested that the Center be ready for the Annual meeting in October.

Emergency Access road: You might remember that the emergency access road that leads to Route 115 off of Schoch Mill Road was washed out last year. The road is now repaired and it is accessible in case of emergencies. It still needs a final top finish and we have plans to discuss this with the Township to see if they will be responsible for the top coat.

Financial Audit – 2012 Budget Preparation: Community dues will remain the same for 2012. Copies of the budget & audit financial statement will be sent out in a separate newsletter & on web site.

Road Repair/replacement: Blueberry Lane (formally Deer Run Lane), Hickory Lane have been resurfaced and many other areas have been repaired. Before this winter, the paving around the building expansion and other spot ar-

reas around the community will be paved.

Signage/ Street Signs: Over 300 individuals in the community have taken advantage of the option to purchase the number signs for their residences. If you want someone to install them please contact the office for a contractor list. Individual owners must make their own arrangements. Many thanks to Diane and Tiffany who have done an excellent job in assisting us with this.

We are completing the bidding process for Street sign installation. We are anticipating an October-November completion of this work.

I hope everyone is using their new addresses and sending change notifications as needed. Some address problems still exist. Please contact the Tunkhannock Twp at 570-646-3008 and the Monroe County 911 at 570-420-3466 if you have a problem. Some addresses in the National Directory have been listed incorrectly and they are the only ones who can fix this problem.

Recycling: The commingling of recyclables has been a success. Comments have been favorable and we have seen an increase in volumes which results in a savings to the community. Improved signage is also in the works. Once the building expansion is complete, we will be relocating the trash and recycling containers behind the postal boxes to improve the aesthetics of the Community Center.

Annual Meeting: I invite and strongly encourage every property owner to attend this year's Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday October 8, 2011. Registration starts 9:00 AM and the Annual meeting starts at 10:00 AM. At this meeting we will vote on the 2012 budget and conduct elections to the Board of Directors. We welcome volunteers to serve on the Board. If you would like to join us, please contact Diane at the office for a form to complete and be approved by the nominating committee. We are always looking for qualified people to serve on the Board and help move this Community forward.

I hope you enjoy the Newsletter. There are many contributors that spend their personal time in contributing articles and I appreciate their efforts. This month, along with Diane and Tiffany, I would like to thank Dan Edgar for all his help in putting the financials together and Don Knabb for the many articles he creates for us on the stars in our beautiful clear nights. Take the time to look up at night.

Have a wonderful fall and hope to see you at the Annual meeting.



Summer Recreation

Date Reminders

If you want to make new friends, here is a great way to do it!

VOLUNTEER FOR THE NEXT BCW COMMUNITY PICNIC

Labor Day: Flea Market

Sat, Sept 3rd /9am-4pm

Picnic-

Sat, Sept 3rd /4p.m.— 6p.m.

Entertainment to follow: 6p.m. –9pm

Call the office if you are interested in volunteering.

Board Meeting

Sat, Sept 10th / 9:00a.m.



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.

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

Security Number : (570)-656-5583

Security Officers:

Joe Lynam

Frank Grouzis

Michael Roche

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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

Security:

Steve Pace

Pete Sussenbach

Paul Purtell

Long Range:

Dan Dacunha, Chair

Harry Miller

Steve Kager

Anthony Bonsignore

Don Kintzel

Finance:

Dan Edgar, Chair

Joe Vottler

Gayle Kimball

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

Roads:

Jerry Moore

Insurance:

Jerry Moore

Diane Guinan

Newsletter:

Diane Guinan

Tiffany DeMaio

R & R /By-Laws:

Mike Ruff, Chair

Jerry Moore

Steve Kager

Dan Edgar

Rick Pollock

Permits:

Steve Pace, Chair

Jerry Moore

Diane Guinan

Paul Purtell

Appeals:

Paul Purtell, Chair

Steve Kager

Bob Wilson

Dan Brenek

Security Corner:

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

Website: www.briercrestwoods.com

SECURITY REPORTED:

Citation issued:

- 2 for fireworks
- 2 for unregistered golf carts
- 1 for driving without headlights (golf cart)
- 1 for reckless driving (ATV)
- 1 for open fire
- 1 for possession of stolen registered sticker

Written warnings issued:

- 1 for speeding
- 1 for under age operation of a ATV
- 1 for trash on property
- 1 for S/S golf cart
- 1 for unregistered golf cart

Incidents:

- 7/1/11 - (Poplar) 2 youths were observed in a tent in the backyard. Youths left when workmen arrived.
- 7/4/11 - (Thornberry) BB gun hole in bedroom window.
- 7/5/11- (Schochmill) Homeowner reported an individual sleeping in garage across the street. Individual had gained entrance through unlocked side door. PMRP were informed by homeowner.
- 7/7/11–Unruly youths at beach area after curfew. PMRP responded & citations

- were issued by BCW Security.
- 7/8/11- (Elk) Burglary of garage. Dirt bike taken. Suspect apprehended by PMRP and property was recovered.
- 7/11/11- (Deer Run) Upper glass door shattered. Home unoccupied. Homeowner notified and door was boarded up.
- 7/16/11- (Hickory) Repeat of vandalism of hot tub.
- 7/26/11– Youth driving unregistered golf cart displaying possibly stolen registration tag. PMRP notified. BCW Security issued citations.
- 7/27/11- (Brier Crest) Report of stolen keys and Boat registration tag. Property taken during possible burglary.
- 7/28/11- (Brier Crest) Reports BB gun holes in three upper side windows
- 7/29/11- (Beaver Dr) Report of female cries for help from Beaver Drive. PMRP responded & found calls unfounded.

*****PLEASE REMEMBER*****

****Register your ATV's and Golf Cart's with security. Call 656-5583.**

****Watch your speed and consider others walking on road, this is a family community—watch out for our children.**

****Please display your BCW hanging tags from the rearview mirror on your vehicle. The Tags enable security to tell who belongs & who doesn't belong in BCW.**

REMINDER LIST: UNDERSTANDING SEPTIC SYSTEMS

1. What is a septic system (also called “on lot” systems) are sewage systems on the property of the homeowner which treat and dispose of domestic sewage through natural processes. Liquid waste from a treatment tank percolates through soil, where it is neutralized and broken down further. Septic system operation & maintenance is the responsibility of the homeowner. In contrast, a centralized system collects & treats sewage from many homes and/or businesses & disposed it off site. These often use complex mechanical & chemical treatment methods.
2. How often must my septic tank be pumped? Up to 50% of the solids retained in the tank decompose ; the remainder accumulates in the tank. A septic tank should be pumped out at least every 3-5 years or according to your local sewage management program which may require more frequent pumping.

Under current PA Law a 900 gallon septic tank must be used for a home with three bedroom house, the tank should be pumped every 1-3yrs. If the same system serves a family of 2, the tank would be ready for pumping every 5.2 years. Systems installed before 1971 may have septic tanks smaller than 900 gallons. These tanks may need to be pumped more often than once a year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SEPTIC-RELATED QUESTIONS, contact your local SEO or the DEP regional office serving your county. **Brier Crest would remind homeowners that rent their home, “Please empty their septic systems, (no matter what type) more frequently.”**

PLEASE TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY! DEP REGIONAL OFFICE: Northeast Region, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790, 717-826-2553.

Board of Directors - If anyone is interested in joining the B. of D. please fill application & mail to office.

Brier Crest Woods Property Owners Association
 A Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation
 HC I Box 500, Blakeslee, Pa. 18610
 Phone: 570-646-8802
 Fax: 570-646-5772

APPLICATION FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Occupation _____

Full time resident _____ Number of years ____

Part time resident _____ Number of years ____

Please describe your reasons for becoming a board member.

In accordance with our by-laws, please attach a copy of your resume along with this application and mail or fax it to the Brier Crest office.

*****BCW RESIDENTS*****

If there is anyone that would like to have the "Newsletter" mailed to them. Please contact the office @ 570-646-8802
 Thanks!

*****ATTENTION BCW RESIDENTS*****

Anyone who has ordered number signs through our Brier Crest office, we will post on our bulletin board when they are ready to be picked up.

Need a contractor for your post installation?

Call Ronald Dicrosta @ 570-350-6266 for installation.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS IN BCW

PLEASE RSVP TO ALICIA SIGLIN AT 570-780-4922 FOR BOTH EVENTS!!

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29TH 11AM TO 1:30 PM
FOOD, GAMES, AND LOTS OF FUN!!

TRICK OR TREATING NIGHT MONDAY, OCTOBER 31ST 5-8PM

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR 2 TRAILERS AND 2 VEHICLES THAT CAN DRIVE THE CHILDREN AROUND THE DEVELOPMENT.

OCTOBER 10TH IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE TRAILERS.

IF THERE AREN'T ANY TRAILERS, MAPS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THE CLUBHOUSE TO LET EVERYONE KNOW WHICH HOUSES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE TRICK OR TREAT NIGHT.



*****IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT ALICIA KNOWS ADDRESSES OF THE HOMEOWNERS WHO WILL BE GIVING OUT CANDY ON HALLOWEEN!!!*****

ATTENTION

**WE WOULD LIKE TO CREATE A PAGE IN BCW'S
NEWSLETTER CALLED "COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS"**

Please be part of this new page! All "Property Owners", can send in all information on any news events in the community, such as, Weddings, Deaths, Birth's or New Owners. If there is something happening in the community that others would be interested in reading, please send information to us and we will look everything over and get back to you.

We would like all "Property Owners" to participate in the above! It's a great way of informing others of what is going on in your community.

Also, please inform your friend/neighbor about sending their e-mail address to the brier crest office, so they may receive their newsletter.

HC 1 Box 500, Blakeslee, Pa. 18610 or

office@briercrestwoods.com

***If you have any suggestions or comments on how to improve our community, please write or e-mail us at the address above.**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

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:

***** PLEASE NOTE*****

***PLEASE SEND YOUR DEED TO BRIER CREST IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY.**

***IT IS IMPORTANT THAT HOMEOWNERS KEEP UP ON CLEANING THEIR SEPTICS SYSTEMS OUT.**

***PLEASE KEEP THE SWALES CLEAR OF ANY DEBRI.**



The Benefits of Tea

A 'cuppa' not only taste good, it may help prevent disease

Whether you drink tea as an afternoon pick me-up

or use it to relax at bedtime, you may be surprised to learn that this familiar beverage might actually prevent heart disease and cancer. "Several common types of tea have high amounts of polyphenols, which act as disease fighting antioxidants in your body," says registered dietitian Karen Yerger of Lehigh Valley Hospital Network. Antioxidants help prevent free radicals (unstable oxygen molecules) from damaging cells.

The leaves of green, black, white & oolong tea all come from the same species of plant. "It's the way they're processed that accounts for their difference in flavor, color & antioxidant levels," Yerger says. Which teas pack the most benefit? Here's a breakdown:

White tea

- *Growing in popularity
- *Least-processed variety
- *Highest antioxidant level
- *Boost immune system, protects against certain, skin cell damage, prevents dental plaque

Oolong tea

- *A refreshing mix of green & black tea
- *Similar health benefits

Green tea

- *Most widely studied for health benefits
- *Minimal processing
- *High antioxidant level
- *Protects against certain cancers and heart disease, may prevent or slow arthritis, natural fluoride helps prevents tooth decay

Black tea

- *Highest caffeine levels
- *High antioxidant level
- *Common varieties: Darjeeling, Earl Grey, English Breakfast
- *Same health benefits

"To get the maximum advantage from any of these teas, try to drink 4-6 cups a day," Yerger says. An 8-ounce cup of tea has only 50 milligrams of caffeine (versus 80-135 for a cup of coffee). If you're sensitive to caffeine choose decaffeinated varieties. And watch the sugar & cream, which can add calories to an otherwise calorie-free beverage.

What about herbal teas? These usually aren't tea but rather infusions of herbs, spices, roots, flowers & other parts of plants. They don't have the same health benefits as regular teas, but since they're naturally decaffeinated & luscious-tasting, they can soothe & relax you.

Article by: Healthy You

HEALTH CORNER



SWEET & LOW



More good news, chocophiles. The health benefit of dark chocolate may include lowering high blood pressure, German researchers report. But overindulging in the treat might blow your calorie budget, & packing on pounds could raise blood pressure. So portion control may help you have the sweet & reap its health benefits, the new study suggests. Small amounts of dark chocolate "efficiently reduced blood pressure," report the researchers, who included Dirk Taubert, MD, PhD, of Germany's University Hospital of Cologne. How small is a small amount? Participants in the study were limited to 30 calories per day of dark chocolate. That's roughly the number found in a Hershey's Kiss.

Taubert's study included 44 adults aged 56-73 yrs in Duisburg, Germany. The 24 women & 20 men had mild high blood pressure (hyper-tension) or borderline blood pressure that fell just short of hypertension. By the end of the study, those eating dark chocolate lowered their systolic blood pressure by nearly 3 points & their diastolic blood pressure by almost 2 points, on average. Blood pressure didn't budge for better or worse in other group, which got white chocolate.

Source: Journal of the American Medical Association

ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 8TH, 2011

STARTS AT 10:00 A.M.

Please do not forget to register at 9am...

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!!!

Highlights of the autumn and early winter night sky at Brier Crest Woods

Greetings Brier Crest Woods star gazers! As I write this in late August with warm days and late sunsets, autumn seems far away, but falling leaves will be here before we know it. We had many nice evenings of star gazing here in the dark skies of Monroe County, watching the planet Saturn in the west and the Milky Way arching overhead. But autumn's long evenings and generally comfortable nighttime temperatures create ideal conditions for star gazing and the night skies during the next few months hold some real treasures for us to see. I'll start with the planets!

Many people will tell you that they have seen the four bright planets in the night sky: Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. All these are reasonably bright and easy to find if you know what time of the year to seek them out. But how would you like to see a distant inhabitant of our solar system, the gas giant planet Uranus? You don't need a telescope, just a good set of star charts with the location of Uranus marked by date. That is easy to get at the website of Sky and Telescope magazine, skyandtelescope.com. Just go to that site and enter Uranus in the search box. You'll find a link that allows you to print a detailed sky map with which you can find the planet Uranus.

September and October are ideal for seeking Uranus since it rises at sunset and sets at dawn. Using the chart from Sky and Telescope you can find Uranus with your naked eyes, appearing as a "star" in the southern sky. But if you use a set of binoculars you will be able to see the green disk of the planet and you'll be certain you are seeing Uranus.

And in case you are wondering, the standard way to pronounce Uranus among astronomers is to put the emphasis on the first syllable "ur" and then say the second part "unus". This is the standard literary pronunciation. The more common way people have pronounced it is u-ra-nus, with the "ra" spoken as "ray". The truth is that all the different ways of pronouncing Uranus are perfectly fine, even the way that sounds like a part of your anatomy that we usually avoid talking about.

If you would like to look for two much easier targets in the sky, wait until November. Just after the sky gets dark look to the west for a very bright "star". That is the planet Venus, often called "the evening star". Then look to the east for another very bright object. That is the planet Jupiter. And if you are not sure if you are seeing Jupiter use any pair of binoculars and you will see tiny "stars" in a line with the planet. Those are not stars; they are Jupiter's brightest moons. If you are lucky you will see all four, but what you see varies from night to night, even hour by hour.

The autumn and early winter skies contain fewer bright stars than the other three seasons, but there are still enough medium-bright stars to allow us to pick out the constellations. Go to skymaps.com and download a free map of the night sky. New maps are posted each month and a list of the best objects to observe is included.

The Big Dipper, not truly a constellation but an asterism, a

part of the larger constellation Ursa Major, scrapes low toward the northern horizon. If you go all the way across the sky from the Big Dipper you will find a large square in the sky. That is The Great Square of Pegasus. The upper left star of the Great Square is not officially part of the constellation Pegasus, but is part of the constellation Andromeda, which rises up and to the left of the Great Square.

One of the most amazing sights of the night sky inhabits the constellation Andromeda. That object is our neighbor galaxy Andromeda, which shares the name of the constellation. To find Andromeda, start at the upper left star of the Great Square, then sight upward to the "W" shaped constellation Cassiopeia. About half way between these two points you might see a faint fuzzy object with your naked eyes. But with a pair of binoculars the galaxy Andromeda will be easily visible. This hazy patch is an enormous swarm of suns so remote that the combined energy of 500 billion stars barely produces a detectable image to our naked eyes.

As Christmas approaches I always look to the east to see the Pleiades, a star cluster in the shape of a very small dipper that is called The Seven Sisters. Binoculars will show that there are many more than seven stars in this cluster. I consider the Pleiades the jewels of the winter sky. And if you stay up late enough the most recognized constellation of the night sky will be rising in the east, Orion the Hunter.

About 10 days before Christmas on December 14th one of the most exciting events of the night sky occurs, the Geminid Meteor Shower. With an average of 100 meteors per hour this shower is usually one of the year's best. Better still, you don't have to stay up until the wee hours to see them, the radiant (the point from which the meteors appear to originate) is well up in the sky by 9 p.m. However, this year's performance will be partly spoiled by a just-past-full Moon that rises not long after the radiant clears the northeast horizon.

If you see something in the sky and you want to know what it is, send me a note at observing@ccas.us. That will get your e-mail to me, Don Knabb, the observing chairperson and vice president of the Chester County Astronomical Society. Barb and I live in West Chester but we spend many nights at our house in Brier Crest Woods enjoying the beautiful dark sky.

