



Summer 2013 Edition

Save the Date: Community Meeting!

The next **BVCA Community Meeting** is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 25th at 7pm** at the Inglis House. Familiar faces and new faces are welcome alike!

The sole agenda item is nominations (and possible election) for the five BVCA Board positions, including the four officer roles of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as outlined in BVCA by-laws.

Remember that you need to have paid your 2013 membership dues in order to run for office and to vote in an election.

Elections & The Future of BVCA

Three years have flown by and all five board members have terms expiring in October. New energy and new ideas are needed to carry on the efforts and legacy of BVCA! Serving on our volunteer board is a minimum of a 3-5 hour commitment each month for what is now a **two-year term**. We are all busy in our daily lives and the current board members too have dealt with looking for a new job, working a 70-hour a week job, raising a family, having a baby, taking care of a sick parent—you name it, one of us has probably had to wrestle with it. The key is to make the time each month for the good of the community. We can't lose sight of how important it is to have a stable

community to live in, and we need good people to step up to help nurture Belmont Village. We hope that person can be you.

Elections will be held in a special October meeting (as stated in by-laws), unless the person running for a specific board seat in unopposed. All five board positions must be filled by October in order for BVCA to still exist as a functioning corporate entity in the State of Pennsylvania.

Car Break-ins In Belmont Village

Over the summer, there has been a sharp uptick in car break-ins, going from basically nonexistent to at least six of which BVCA knows. Day or night, please don't leave anything in your car. A criminal doesn't know whether the bag on your car seat contains dirty gym clothes or a laptop. Please report suspicious people, suspicious behavior, and suspicious vehicles. Call 9-1-1 and let the cops do their jobs and come police our neighborhood. And please be a good neighbor and replace your burned out exterior lighting.

No one wants to be the next victim of a car break-in, and if we work together, we can show criminals that we don't play in Belmont Village. But, we all have to work together!



Dear Friends and Neighbors of Belmont Village,

For three years now, I have had the incredible privilege of serving as Board President of the Belmont Village Community Association. Earlier this year, I accepted an opportunity to help build a brand new high school in another state—while staying at my current school as a high school principal and while finishing up the last few months of my term as BVCA President. It was important to complete my duty to the community, but obviously the time has now come for me to say a good-bye to BVCA and to not seek re-election for a second term. I will stay involved in the BVCA, however, as chair of the new Garden Gateway Committee so that the work on the Conshohocken Avenue project can be seamlessly completed—and I can finish what the neighborhood has been promised.

Looking back, I am super proud of the growth the BVCA has had and of all that we have accomplished together. Some highlights include:

- * Membership rates up 42% since 2011
- * 600%+ increase in membership giving since 2011
- * Three \$1,000 donations from City Centre Shopping Center
- * \$2500 Grant from Preservation Alliance that funded a new Belmont Village website
- * \$2,000 Matching Grant from Inglis House
- * \$36,000 in-kind service grant from Community Design Collaborative for Garden Gateway Design
- * \$30,000 grant from Preservation Alliance for Gateway Project for site surveying, design services, and the purchase of our Belmont Village sign
- * \$200,000 commitment from Councilman Curtis Jones for funding the completion of the Garden Gateway Project
- * Commitment from Mansion at Bala to vastly improve the 47th Street side of their property (to begin Fall 2013)
- * Over 30 new trees being planted in Belmont Village
- * Becoming a RCO (Registered Community Organization) with the City
- * Navigating complex zoning issues around Simpson House, Inglis House, City Centre, and Police Station
- * Three End of the Year Celebrations
- * And a Halloween Parade!

As BVCA enters a new chapter of its existence, I am proud of all of things we have been able to add in ours.

Sincerely,
Bill Porter
BVCA, Board President