

**BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 243
Braddock Heights, MD 21714

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**BRADDOCK HEIGHTS
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

NOVEMBER 2022

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Join the BHCA Today!
 Membership information below.

BHCA Directory

President: Mike Cottrell, 301-371-7827
 Vice President: Jody Koogle, 301-371-0558
 Treasurer: Jake Bal, 240-575-8573
 Secretary: Jamie Reinhardt
 Pool Comm Chair: Michele Thornton
 Program Comm Chair: Vacant
 Property Comm Chair: Mike Cottrell, 301-371-7827
 Member Comm Chair: Doug Sims, 301-606-3326

BOARD MEMBERS

Jake Bal, 240-575-8573	Karen Koltz, 410-440-5932
Craig Campbell, 301-305-5567	Jody Koogle, 301-371-0558
Mike Cottrell, 301-371-7827	Kevin McBride, 410-241-3451
Daryl Happ, 301-371-8078	Michael Pfarr, 410-491-1319

Membership Information

Ask your neighbors if they are members of the BHCA. If not, let them know for \$50 annually, they get quarterly newsletters containing important information regarding the Braddock Heights Community. They will have voting rights at general meetings on issues involving the BHCA pool, park and pavilion. They should also know BHCA represents their interests at the county level when necessary. This includes pedestrian safety, traffic issues, blighted properties and more. We are all volunteers and we need volunteers to support the Board Directors in a myriad of operational areas. The newsletter contains dates of important events - annual spring and fall picnics, pool opening and closing, clean-up dates, etc. Come join the fun! For more information and contact data, go to www.braddockheights.org.

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



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In this issue we are highlighting BHCA Vice President, **Jody Koogle**, a long time BHCA Board Member. Jody and his wife, Stephanie, moved to Braddock Heights in 2001 and Jody joined the BHCA Board shortly thereafter. He has served several terms as Treasurer and Vice President, and again holds the Vice President role. Jody has been and continues to be heavily involved in pool maintenance and upkeep. He is a troubleshooter and helps wherever needed.

Jody and Stephanie have been married 29 years and have two boys, both recent graduates of Middletown High School. Interestingly, they have three dogs, three cats, and numerous other animals. There's always someone wanting attention (which isn't a bad thing)!

Jody looks forward to serving the Braddock Heights Community as long as he is able.

**BRADDOCK HEIGHTS VILLAGE HOLDS
 FRONT YARD FRIDAY
 SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**



The Braddock Heights Village ageing in place group held their second Front Yard Friday (FYF) on September 30th, just before the remnants of hurricane Ian hit the mountain. This meeting was a social gathering for neighbors interested in the ageing in place concept, and Jan Ciarkowski provided an update on the progress being made to establish this organization. The meeting location was moved to Jan Ciarkowski's garage one house down from the original location due to the imminent stormy weather.

Once the group assembled and had time to make introductions and socialize, Jan Ciarkowski

spoke for a few minutes to give an update on the ongoing research and planning for the Braddock Heights Village. She explained that it's time for the organization to move forward, forming focus groups to further explore needs and wants of the village. This can occur organically as the group grows. Eventually we will need a budget, a board of directors and bylaws. We will also need to incorporate. Focus groups will include a Legal/Financial team to explore future dues structure, mission statement, online presence with website, and eventual 501c3 status. The Group Services team will expand our social outreach including Front Yard Fridays, shared interest groups, lectures, and other social gatherings. The group attending FYF decided that inside gatherings were now acceptable. The Health and Mobility team will explore services that can be provided safely.

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FREDERICK AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Where Childhood Dreams...Become Lifetime Memories

The 2022 baseball season has come to a close for Frederick American Little League. Once again we had a very successful season beginning with our 2022 Opening Day Parade, playing numerous games and having numerous practices at the Braddock Heights baseball field. It's time to put our field to rest, winterize and prepare it for another exciting 2023 season.

Our program offers players from ages 4-12 the opportunity to play baseball in a fun and safe environment. Our divisions include Tee Ball, Coach Pitch, Minors Kid Pitch and Majors Kid Pitch. We strive to provide age-appropriate instruction in the development of baseball skills, sportsmanship, competitiveness and fair play. All of our staff are volunteers and require safety/backgrounds checks. You do not need to have a child in the league to volunteer.

Our league has always been commended for our sportsmanship while staying competitive. Typically, our high integrity reputation precedes us as we meet other leagues throughout the district and beyond. This has taken many years of hard work to cultivate and maintain. This is where our leadership take the most pride. The kids always enjoy meeting at the



Braddock ballpark and having fun as they learn the great American Pastime.

You can get more information on our program by following us on Facebook: @Frederickamerican or visit our website at www.frederickamerican.org.

Frederick American Little League (F.A.L.L.) offers 4 seasons;

- Winter training
- Traditional spring season
- All-Star and Summer tournaments
- Fall-ball (i.e., training and development)

The 2023 season will get under way real soon. Registration will open on our website in mid-December. We'll jump right into the indoor training program during the winter months. F.A.L.L. uses The Athlete Factory as our indoor training site. Our team assignments happen in March and then teams start practicing as they prepare for opening day in April. The spring season runs through July with a regular season, all-stars, and invitational tournament season. In mid-August we get a small break until our fall season begins in September.

What's happening at the field?

The Outfield Fence

The most common question we get is when will the new fence be up? So here is what's going on with the fence. When covid hit our baseball season a few years ago we opted to hold on building a new wall until we got our hands around what the future was going to be for our league and Little League in general. Sponsorships were frozen and the league persevered by operating a modified (but actually) longer season with 4 teams running from July 1 to end of October. The kids were simply ecstatic to be out of the house. Since then, we have watched the cost of lumber skyrocket. Our latest quote was nearly 3x what our original quote was to put the fence up. During that same time period we worked really hard at fundraising and have explored other types of outfield walls. We are gathering information now on something that could be very unique in this area and will last many, many years at Braddock Height field.

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SWIMMING POOL NEWS

Happy Fall! What a great pool season we had this summer! There were so many positive comments about how beautiful and clean the pool was this past summer. Our pool membership for 2022 hit capacity and we are already planning for next summer. We would like to thank our pool manager this past summer, Jeff Hodos and all the wonderful guards for their dedication and hard work. They all did an outstanding job this year! We would also like to send a special thank you to Will Wood, who has chaired the pool committee the past few years. His hard work and efforts made the pool run smoothly and efficiently these past few years. Will has decided to take a break from this position and he will be sorely missed. Our current pool committee includes Ashley Andrews, Tom Bidinger, Betsy Ehrlich, Mindy Korol, Mary Mills, Julia Remsberg, Doug Sims, Hillary Sizemore and Michele Thornton. These volunteers work hard year-round to provide the best pool experience for all!

We do not anticipate a price increase for 2023. Look for the December newsletter regarding our early pool registration that begins in January.

The committee wishes everyone a great fall season and a very happy Thanksgiving!

Michele, *Pool Committee Chair*
And the Pool Committee



FRONT YARD FRIDAY *Continued from page 1*

The Membership/ Volunteers team will explore ways to increase our membership and train future volunteers.

Federated Charities is an incubator for non-profits in Frederick. They supply resources at a cost. We will continue to look at different models as we grow to the point of needing more administrative services. It is the intent of the group that the village remain an all-volunteer village at this time.

We had a total of 14 attendees at FYF, and several people signed up for the committees proposed by Jan Ciarkowski. There were also volunteer hosts for future FYF events.

FREDERICK AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE *Continued from page 2*

Scoreboard

We have our own modern scoreboard that is set up at our previous field. We have started to make plans to transfer that scoreboard to our new home in Braddock Heights. It's a lot of work and can be costly to move and reinstall but it is on our long-range plan so we will keep you posted when that project begins.

Batting Cage

Also on our long-range plan, the batting cage is due for a refurbish. The netting will eventually be replaced and other minor changes will be made to make our cage even safer.

There are other smaller projects on the horizon like bullpen improvements, field / turf improvements, and field leveling. If you have a business that can help or if you want to be part of the improvements in anyway, please reach out to Rick Wilson via phone at 240-422-6835 or at frederickamericanlittleleague@yahoo.com

We would love to see more kids from the Braddock area in our program and we appreciate all the support that the Braddock Heights Community Association has given our program. We also appreciate all the support and positive comments we receive from the families we see at the pool and moving around the park. Never be afraid to come say "hi" and take in a ball game. I promise it will be a pleasurable experience watching kids play games that don't involve thumbs.

Rick Wilson, *President*