



Crescent Hills
— Civic Association —



LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear Neighbors,

Despite feeling like a distant memory, our luncheon fundraiser held on January 15th proved to be a remarkable success. The event drew a full house, treating attendees to a delectable array of salads, baked goods, and an impressive assortment of raffle baskets. Additionally, the occasion marked the induction of our new officers. Among the highlights was a poignant presentation titled “Behind the Mask” by Jan Kukucka’s sister, Beth, showcasing her own photographic documentation of individuals navigating through the pandemic. Notably, we were honored by the presence of Mayor Calabrese and State Representative Joe McAndrew, who shared insights into their roles and discussed the ways in which they advocate for and represent our community.

As spring breathes new life into our community, I invite you to embrace the renewal and promise this season brings. With blossoms adorning our streets and parks, let’s seize this opportunity for growth, both in nature and within our civic association. I urge you to engage in the upcoming events and initiatives, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among us. Spring marks the perfect time to renew your commitment to our neighborhood by becoming a member of our civic association. Together, let’s shape a vibrant and inclusive community in which our collective efforts make a lasting impact on the lives of all who call this neighborhood home.

We’re always on the lookout for enthusiastic volunteers, and we’d be thrilled to welcome some new faces to our team! Whether you’re passionate about gardening, event planning, or community outreach, there’s a place for you with us. Volunteering with our civic association is not only a rewarding experience but also a fantastic opportunity to make a difference in our neighborhood. If you’re interested in lending a hand, please don’t hesitate to reach out – we’d love to have you onboard!

In this newsletter, you’ll find details about our upcoming events, including the Plant Sale, Memorial Day Picnic, and Reading in the Park. Additionally, mark your calendars for volleyball sessions starting every Monday in June at the park – everyone is invited to join in the fun!

Warm Regards,

Grace Edwardo, Vice President

Calendar of Events

5/6	Plant Sale Preorder Deadline
5/10	Directory Update Deadline
5/18	Plant Sale (Preorder sale only)
5/27	Memorial Day Picnic
6/8	Community Yard Sale
6/8	Litter Pickup
6/3	Adult Volleyball begins
6/1	Yoga in the Park begins
6/15	Reading in the Park begins
7/27	Litter Pickup

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS!

Did someone new move in near you? Are you a new Neighbor?

Please share the good news and send me the address, so we can meet. I’d like to give out a little “welcome to the neighborhood” gift.

You have chosen a special place to live in Penn Hills, and we have included in our welcome bag both neighborhood and community information. We would love to have you as a part of the Crescent Hills Civic Association.

Please help me reach out anytime you see a new homeowner. Call, email, or text me!

Julie Madera

Welcome Committee Team
(412) 491-7225
mjmadera@msn.com

PARK NEWS

Jan Kukucka

Park Events



On Saturday, March 30, the CHCA held its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Crescent Hills Park. This was one of the shortest egg hunts on record since a cold rain set in about 20 minutes into the event! Still, about 40 children did have time to limbo under the bunny stick and play a group game. Then they dodged raindrops to gather eggs and receive prizes and treat bags from the Easter Bunny.

Thanks to our community-spirited Easter Bunny, Alexandra Newby, who donned her bunny outfit for about the 15th year. She is from Spring Grove Road and is about to earn her doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University. And big thanks to our adult volunteers, Julie and Myla Madera, Beth Kukucka, Sheila Paul, Andrea Getsy, and Ed Blazina, as well as preteen volunteers Nicholas Hansen, Jack Marshall, and Rosslyn Zeibak. All of these kind folks arranged eggs and guided children through the games.

For 35 years, this annual event has combined the best of Crescent Hills: cheerful neighbors, a pleasant park, and energetic children. See you April 19, 2025?

Spring Projects

This is the stuff that isn't glamorous, but it is necessary to keep our park a safe and inviting space:

- Students from Trinity Christian School have volunteered to lay playground and garden mulch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 2. We could use some extra wheelbarrows, iron rakes, and shovels for this event, so if you have any you could lend, please call or text Jan at 412-951-4789.
- Laying another five tons of limestone dust on the walking trail.
- Stabilizing/cleaning/painting playground equipment.
- Power-washing/painting the former basketball court (the "peaceful playground").
- Resetting the fence along the left side of the walking trail.

As soon as we have dates for work parties, we'll let you know with signs, email, phone calls, and Facebook.

Getsy Memorial

The late Jim Getsy helped to improve the landscaping at the park for more than 15 years. Because of this and his general devotion to nature and his neighborhood, we would like to establish a permanent memorial to him at the park. We're still in the idea stage and suggestions have included a park bench, a tree, fencing around a corner garden, or a new piece of playground equipment. Please let Jan know any idea you might have and be ready to help us honor our former neighbor.

Tennis Court Project

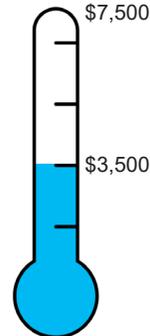
We're still in the process of planning how to use the grant we have to upgrade the tennis court area. As anyone who has been around that area during a rainstorm knows, that has to begin with a better system for draining the court. We are working with an engineer who is evaluating what changes need to be made to the drainage system before the area can receive a new layer of asphalt and/or sealing. Stay tuned.

CH Park Reminders

- The park is not available to be rented for picnics or parties due to limitation on parking, noise, and cleanup. If you do want to use the park for a larger group, know that other people will be able to use it at the same time. And if your event generates an overflow of garbage, please plan ahead and bring garbage bags, so you can take it home with you.
- If you see illegal activities such as pot-smoking, under-age drinking, or equipment being damaged, please call 911. It's not wise to confront offenders yourself.

- Do not use fireworks in the park.
- Do not dump garbage or yard waste at the park or over the hillside.
- The park is closed after dark, and a chain will be stretched across the driveway from dusk to 7 a.m. If you have a special circumstance (home remodeling, etc.) and want to leave a vehicle locked in the park overnight, let Jan know.
- The storage building has a "This is no longer an outhouse" sign on it and still.... Please use the Porta Potty in the parking lot for nature calls—not garbage hauls.
- Dog walkers, please use the bags in a box at both park entrances to clean up after your pooch. And put the used bags in the garbage can—not back in the box.

If you haven't donated to the park yet in 2024, please consider it. The cost of mulch, limestone, equipment repairs, grass-cutting/leaf-gathering, Porta Potty rental, insurance and taxes is \$7,500. This is the cost of maintaining the park per year and doesn't include the cost of fallen tree removal. Thanks to everyone who uses the park with care and consideration for others.



MEMBERSHIP

Jan Yanko

Are you a member of the Crescent Hills Civic Association? The CHCA is an active community organization involved with updating and maintaining a park and bus shelters, hosting neighborhood activities such as holiday picnics and children's activities, and networking with other civic organizations and the municipal services. CHCA also funds supplies for the Litter Collection and Welcome committees as well as plantings around specific street entrances and bus shelters. In addition, it maintains the sidewalk along Frankstown Rd. between Glenfield Dr. and Spring Grove Rd. Our main source of revenue for these activities is the Crescent Hills residents' annual membership dues and park funding.

The current membership fee is \$15, and, at this point in the year, about one-sixth of the Crescent Hills households are members of the association. We all take advantage of the park, bus shelters, and sidewalk, and enjoy a maintained neighborhood and association activities. Many volunteers help us to operate within a tight budget and keep expenses to a minimum. Please consider becoming actively involved in the Crescent Hills Civic Association and neighborhood volunteer and activity opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP and PARK DONATION REMINDER

The Crescent Hills Civic Association is dedicated to enhancing and maintaining our local park and organizing community events. Your support through membership donations will enable us to continue our efforts and make a lasting impact in our community. Join us today and be a part of positive change.

Thank you for your generosity!

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Membership: ___\$15
Park Donation: ___\$40 ___\$50 ___Other

Include this form and make one check payable to Crescent Hills Civic Association and mail to: Crescent Hills Civic Association, P.O. Box 17055, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.



Payments can be made online at our website ch-ca.org via PayPal. Use QR code for a direct link.

YARD SALE

Don't throw away that old lamp, rocking chair, or music box yet. The Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale will be on Saturday, June 8, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Civic Association will advertise it in The Progress. This is your chance to make some cash and save the planet.

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC - A NEIGHBORHOOD TRADITION!

Come to the Park on Monday, May 27th, from 1:30 to 6 p.m. following the parade and meet your neighbors. There will be hot dogs, hamburgers, snacks, soft drinks, and water. Cold beer will also be available. Cash donations are accepted. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and chairs for relaxation. There will be special games for kids and more! More details to arrive by email or posted on CH-CA.org.

LITTER

Tim and Rose Mizerak

Thanks to all the volunteers who help keep our neighborhood litter free! On March 30th, 30 bags of trash were collected along Lime Hollow Rd. The next pickup is scheduled for Saturday, June 8; meet at the park at 7:45 a.m. Mark these future pick-up dates on your calendar: June 8th / July 27th / October 12th.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL

Yes, we will be playing volleyball in the park again this summer! Beginning on June 3rd, we will play every Monday at 6:00 through September, weather permitting. Come enjoy some neighborly talk, laughter, and exercise!

LOW COUNTRY BOIL

Have you ever been to a Low Country Boil? If so, you know to expect great food; if not, you're in for a treat! Watch for more information about this delicious fundraiser later this summer.

READING IN THE PARK

This year it will be Saturday mornings at 11:00, starting June 15 to July 20. Caitlin Huden and David DeJohn will take turns being the instructors. They will have books, activities, crafts, and more for children ages 3-7. Please join them for this fun summertime program. Follow Crescent Hills Civic Association on Facebook or email caitlinhuden@gmail.com or david.dejohn@unnpp.gov for more information.

ANNUAL SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER

Join us for our annual plant sale fundraiser, Saturday, May 18th, where you can breathe new life into your garden while supporting the CHCA! Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting out, our wide selection of plants will cater to every green thumb. From colorful flowers to lush greenery, annuals and perennials, our offerings will enhance the beauty of your outdoor space. Plus, by purchasing from us, you're contributing to the betterment of our community, funding essential programs and initiatives that benefit us all. Don't miss out on this opportunity to spruce up your garden and make a positive impact in our neighborhood.

This year, we're reintroducing pre-orders for our plant sale, making it easier than ever to secure your favorite blooms. A digital order form is available on our website, simply complete the form and email it directly to Grace at glkosko@gmail.com no later than Monday, May 6th. Alternately, a hard copy of the order form is available at Susan Chikalla's house at 59 Hathaway Ct. You can mail your form or drop it off at 120 McCurdy Dr. Payment can be made by check, payable to CHCA, or conveniently online via PayPal through our website's Donate tab. Orders can be picked up at the tennis court in the park On Saturday, May 18th from 9am-12pm. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, don't hesitate to reach out to Grace at 724-309-5452. Let's make this year's plant sale a blooming success together!

YOGA IN THE PARK

Tracey Salah

Yoga will return this summer. We will start on Saturday, June 1 at 9 a.m. All you need is a mat. Everyone is welcome... experienced yogi or brand new...all ages. If you have family or friends who may be interested, bring them along. This summer we will continue to focus on our breath, move through traditional postures, and add some fun into the sequences. Yoga is excellent for flexibility, building strength, increasing our ability to balance, and allowing body, mind, and soul to harmonize. Please join us in our beautiful park and see what it's about. Concerns or questions...Email me tracey@salahfamily.org See you on June 1 at 9 a.m.



REMEMBERING JIM GETSY



Last month, Crescent Hills bid farewell to one of its most indispensable pillars, Jim Getsy. Jim's profound influence was felt throughout our area, where he played a pivotal role in founding and fostering many of our community organizations.

When Jim retired from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, he devoted countless hours to beautifying Crescent Hills Park, from landscaping to creating signage, and maintaining the local bus shelters. His dedication to civic duty helped establish the Penn Hills Soccer Association, the Penn Hills Community Development Corporation, and the Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission, among others. He volunteered with the Penn Hills Service Center, was a past president of the Crescent Hills Civic Association and the Penn Hills Rotary and served a term as a Penn Hills Councilman.

Jim was known for his woodworking hobby. He could not walk past discarded wood without imagining a future for it, often dragging the wood home. Birds were his specialty, many of which were given as gifts to friends or donated to charitable causes over the years. Jim was an avid storyteller, crossword solver, player of chess, scrabble, tennis, and never turned down a game of poker. A staunch anti-litter advocate, Jim could often be seen walking the neighborhood with a litter picker. His life reminds us all of the impact that one individual can have on a community and the world at large.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to Bobby and Diane Franklin of Earlwood Rd. who welcomed baby number 2 at the end of March.

In Remembrance

CHCA extends sincere condolences to the families of Brian Webb, Sr., Glenfield Dr., Anthony DiGioia, Wisteria Dr., Donald Rickey, Sycamore Dr., Jim Getsy, Crescent Hills Rd., and Leona (Lee) Vurgich, Spring Grove Rd.

Brian Webb, Sr. of Glenfield Dr. passed away unexpectedly late last year at just 51. He is survived by his wife Linda, their children, Brian Jr. and Caroline, and grandson Dominic. We remember Brian's warm friendliness and big smile. He was always helpful to his neighbors and was often seen taking his dog Archie on walks. He was always so happy when his son and grandson visited. An avid Pitt and Steelers fan, he also enjoyed golfing with his neighbors. He is missed by all.

Longtime Wisteria Dr. resident Anthony DiGioia died in December 2023. Tony will be remembered by Crescent Hills residents for both his gentle neighborly ways and the formidable engineering skills he lent to Crescent Hills Park.

Don Rickey, a longtime resident of Crescent Hills, passed away in February. Don operated a very successful home remodeling business where his quality craftsmanship and work ethic earned him a stellar reputation. He was a Korean War veteran who loved boating, ice skating, biking, golf, archery, and square dancing. He liked to entertain family and friends by playing the harmonica and console organ.

Lee Vurgich passed away in April. She and George were married for 61 years and lived in Crescent Hills since 1970. Lee taught English in Ohio before moving to Penn Hills, where she taught at the old junior high and at Linton Middle School. She and George enjoyed traveling and flea marketing. Lee was a member of Crescent Hills Civic Association, volunteering where needed. She was an avid reader and gardener and loved all animals (except snakes and spiders). Until her illness made it impossible, she walked all over the neighborhood and knew every dog and most of their owners.

If you hear of noteworthy neighborhood information, please let us know so we can include it in our newsletters.

OFFICERS

Interim President
Andrea Getsy: 412.795.2607
algetsy@verizon.net

Vice President
Grace Edwardo

Treasurer
Rebecca Williams

Recording Secretary
Yvette Logan

Corresponding Secretary
Samantha Moik

Member-At-Large
Mary Colaianne

Immediate Past President
Lyon Zeibak

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Megan McDonald and Rob Jones

Associate Editor
Mary Beth Phillips

Code Enforcement
Grace and Brian Edwardo

Litter
Tim and Rose Mizerak

Website Manager
Lyon Zeibak

Membership
Jan Yanko

Directory
Doug Riegner

Park
Jan Kukucka

Welcome
Juleen Madera

CrescentHillsCivicAssociation@gmail.com



CHCA Plant Sale 2024

Photos are from the internet, not the nursery, and are provided to assist the buyer.

SUN PLANTS

Plants marked with an asterisk are deer resistant. BUT just in case, keep deer away with garlic water or surround with strong smelling herbs.

*Ageratum



*Alyssum-Border plant attracts pollinators



*Bacopa-container plant



*Bridal Veil



Calibrachoa



*Citrosa-Mosquito Repellent



*Celosia



Dahlias



*Dianthus-Perennial



*Dracaena-Spikes



*Gazania



*Geraniums-Drought resistant



*Lamium-perennial



*Lantana



Flowering Maple



*Marigolds



New Guinea Impatiens



Petunias/Wave Petunias



Scaveola*



Vinca*



**SHADE OR PARTIAL
SHADE**

Begonia- Trailing Tuberos



Begonias-Dark Leaf



Begonias- Green Leaf



Non-stop Begonias



Coleus*



Pansy Mix-Likes cool weather and more sun than shade.



Polka Dot Plant*



Streptocarpella (False Violets)



CHCA SPRING PLANT SALE

NAME:
ADDRESS:

PHONE:
EMAIL:

\$18/FLAT4 plants/pack \$4.50/PACK		32 plants/flat \$18/FLAT4 plants/pac			
PLANT TYPE	COLOR	# PACKS	# FLATS	TOTAL PRICE	
Dahlias	Mixed			0	
Begonias- Green Leaf	Red			0	
	Pink			0	
	White			0	
Begonias-Dark Leaf	Red			0	
	Pink			0	
	White			0	
Polka Dot Plant	White			0	
	Pink			0	
\$18/FLAT6 plants/pack \$3/PACK		48 plants/flat \$18/FLAT6 plants/pack			
PLANT TYPE	COLOR	# PACKS	# FLATS	TOTAL PRICE	
Petunias	Mixed			0	
Pansy	Maxum mix			0	
Ageratum	Blue			0	
Alyssum	White			0	
Marigolds	Yellow			0	
	Flame			0	
	Orange			0	
	Mix			0	
Celosia	Mix			0	
Coleus	Mix			0	
Vinca	White			0	
	Punch			0	
	Red			0	
	Mix			0	

10" HANGING BASKET \$17.00		COLOR	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
New Guinea Impatiens		White		0
		Salmon		0
		Pink		0
Bridal Veil		White		0
Supertunias		Purple		0
		Pink		0
Calibrachoa		Purple		0
		Yellow		0
Streptacarpella (False Violet)		Purple		0
Begonia-Tuberous, trailing		White		0
		Orange		0
Non-Stop Begonias		Yellow		0
		Pink		0
Mini Wandering Jew				0
Purple Wandering Jew				0
12" HANGING BASKET \$22.75		COLOR	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
Patio tomato-Tumbling Tom				0
4.5" POTS \$4.60		COLOR	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
Dianthus (Perennial)				0
Lamium (Perennial)				0
Dracena (Spikes)				0
Flowering Maple				0
New Guinea Impatiens		White		0
		Salmon		0
		Pink		0
Bacopa		White		0
Wave Petunias		Mix		0
Scaveola		White		0
		Blue		0
Gazania		Mix		0
Non-Stop Begonias		Yellow		0
		Pink		0
Tomatos	Early	Primo Red		0
	Mid-season	Mt Fresh		0
		Grape		0
Peppers		Vidi		0
		Hungarian Hot		0
Sweet Basil				0
Parsley				0
Thyme				0
Oregano				0
Rosemary				0
Spearmint				0
4.5" POTS: \$5.00		COLOR	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
Geranium		Red		0
		Salmon		0
		White Splash		0
		Orchid		0
6.5" POTS: \$7.00		COLOR	QUANTITY	TOTAL PRICE
Citrosa- natural mosquito repellent				0
SUBTOTAL				0