



# CHCA

crescent hills civic association

Spring 2015

Our next general meeting is Monday, April 13th at 6:45pm in the Penn Hills Library on Stotler Rd. We value your input, so we hope that you can make it.

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## ✧ LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT ✧

Since our November newsletter, the Civic Association has been very busy. The Christmas House Tour in December was a rousing success, thanks to Bobbi Moore and her committee. A special shout out to the following homeowners who so graciously opened their homes and displayed their holiday treasures for all to see: Bill & Marieva Anderson, James & Mimi Marko-Eberele, Doug McAnlis & Mark Yates, Doris & Raymond Mierwald, Bobbi Moore, Philip & Tina Sparano, Mary Lois Verilla and especially Sue Beikman who offered her home as the final destination where homemade crafts as well as homemade foods could be purchased. The compliments from visitors were nothing but positive. Most of the proceeds will go to park improvements.

In January we sponsored our annual Martin Luther King Day Luncheon chaired by Cindy and Kevin Van Horn who have continuously done a fantastic job of organizing this event. Ken Bott returned to tickle the piano keys, and Sandra Bacasa arranged a tribute to Martin Luther King. Our guest was local resident, and interior designer, Karen Lantz who brought 'goodie bags' filled with Karen's "Designer Talking Tips" and brochures from several fabric and furniture companies. She also discussed the color of the year, 'Marsala,' a rich orange-brown shade.

Sight of our first robin in the front yard is a sure sign that spring is slowly approaching. Yet, with the warmer weather comes the dreaded potholes, and Crescent Hills certainly has their share of them, don't we? Our organization is stepping up to appear at council meetings to voice our disgust with the condition of our roads. Even the businesses have been complaining. We will fight to have our voices heard, and we invite you to come to these meetings as well. If you've read the Progress article of 3/12/15, "Officials want better municipal building," you found out that the municipality plans to build a new municipal building, preferably at the present Hebron School property. This will be accomplished with the \$5 million dollar surplus in the budget. Well, the residents of Crescent Hills want something, too, from that surplus--repaved roads. We pay high taxes and deserve better! After all we've been voted "best overall neighborhood in the east," but our roads don't live up to that title. Below see Council Meeting information for the remainder of this year:

Council Meetings - 1st & 3rd Mondays - 7:30 P.M. - Council Chambers 4/6, 4/20, 5/4, 5/18, 6/1, 6/15, 7/6, 7/20, 8/3, 8/17, 9/8\*, 9/21, 10/5, 10/19, 11/2, 11/16, 12/7, 12/21, 1/4/2016.

The month of May brings sunshine, flowers... and our yearly Mother's Day Plant Sale which will be held on Saturday, May 2nd. This year our event will be chaired by Tina Sparano.

Sadly, we've lost quite a few of our long time residents (see Condolences) of Crescent Hills, and the Civic Association sends our sincerest wishes to their families for peace in the days ahead.

We also look forward to an early Easter and wish all of you a very happy holiday!

- Chris Miller

## ✧ A PARAGRAPH FROM THE EDITOR ✧

Please peruse this publication (newsletter, chronicle, whatever it is) for the many dates and events approaching. Wouldn't want you to miss anything. By the way, what should we call this paper? How about a contest? Submit your suggestion to me (by email or phone or text) and we'll have a vote. No formal rules. - Laurie Pavone

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

For three very important reasons, June 7, 1942 was an important date for Fred R. Harman. It was his 18th birthday, his graduation day from Culver Military Academy and the day that Fred was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Following graduation Fred Harman's active duty training began in Ft. Bragg NC., and from there on to Camp Breckinridge, KY. His overseas tour during WW II took him first to London, England for 6 months where he joined Battery A, 67th FA Bn, 3rd Armored Division, eventually becoming a Battery Executive Officer responsible for firing six self-propelled Howitzer cannons. In Normandy his unit engaged in battle with "heavy German resistance...the Krauts were as thick as flies." Approaching Argentan, FR the unit had a frightening experience with "Friendly Fire." Hearing gunshots coming from their rear, Lt. Harman "called our Fire Direction Center at Battalion to see if they could find out who was doing the shooting. In a few minutes we were being shelled by a lot more than one gun." Some of the bullets had hit an ammunition trailer where red smoke shells were kept. (The Army used this smoke to call in an air strike). Fred's men "quickly threw yellow smoke grenades and spread cerise panels to identify themselves as Americans. The smoke & orange panels were semi-effective." Luckily, "the (Air Corps) P47s made one strafing pass and did not drop any bombs. We had five men wounded and one killed. After flagging down an ambulance and getting the wounded evacuated, our 'Friendly Fire' experience was over and we went on with our part of the war... we went on to close what was to be called Falaise Gap."

In September of 1944 the 3rd Armored Division progressed through Belgium, into Germany then back to Belgium for the Battle of the Bulge. Lieutenant Colonel Harman returned to the U.S. in December, 1945.

After the war Fred enrolled at Ohio State University where he met his wife, Mille. Eventually the couple moved to Pittsburgh. In 1962 Fred & Millie purchased a home in Crescent Hills at 60 Hathaway Ct. where they raised two children, Joyce and Bob, and are now proud grandparents of five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

We salute Fred Harman and all of the members of the armed forces who so valiantly fought for our freedom.

- Chris Miller



Military Connections, a Penn Hills based nonprofit is collecting \$10 donations again this year to send Easter bags to those stationed overseas. If you would like to donate, please e-mail [militaryconnections@hotmail.com](mailto:militaryconnections@hotmail.com).

You may also drop off or send homemade donations in quart sized bags to:

Military Connections Corp., 312 Auburn St., Penn Hills, PA 15235

## CH-CA.ORG

The Crescent Hills Civic Association needs your pictures! We need your pictures of Crescent Hills, of the park, of you and your neighbors...etc. New, old, antique, artistic, candid...etc. We need pictures for our website and facebook page to highlight what a great community we are. Please email photos to [contact@CH-CA.org](mailto:contact@CH-CA.org) or contact Lyon Zeibak (805) 680-2079 to make arrangements."

- Lyon Zeibak

Just a reminder that you can pay your Civic Association Dues on our website, [www.CH-CA.org](http://www.CH-CA.org). We've also added a Donate button to the site so that you can make donations beyond your basic dues. If you'd like to see additional features or information on the website, please contact Lyon Zeibak at 412-250-7423 or [lzeibak@yahoo.com](mailto:lzeibak@yahoo.com).

- Donna Frazier

## MLK Luncheon and Holiday House Tour Photos See you next year





## SPRING HAS ARRIVED

*It's time to think about beautifying our lawns  
with flowers and planting those gardens!*

*Our annual Plant Sale will be  
Saturday, May 2nd  
Crescent Hills Park  
8am - Noon*



*Please plan to stop by  
and purchase your  
flowers and plants!  
Volunteers are needed!*

*Please contact Tina if you can help!*

*Thanks, Tina Sparano*

*412-793-2529*



**1 Heart; 2 Spades; Pass; 3 Diamonds...**

Dear Bridge Players,

It has been some time since Crescent Hills has had an organized Bridge Group. I have been asked by a few of you if I could try to get people together and we can talk about Bridge. I would like to invite anyone interested, young, old, good, not so good, want to learn and interested in this wonderful game, to my home, 167 Crescent Hills Road, on Thursday, March 27 at 7:00 pm. Please let me know that you are coming. We will try to organize ourselves. Thanks for your interest.

*- Jeannie Meyer*

## PHSD FEBRUARY ROTARY CLUB PRESENTATION

Dr. Nancy Hines, Penn Hills School District Acting Superintendent

Dr. Hines recently made a spirited presentation at the Thursday February 26th Rotary Club Meeting at the local Comfort Inn to attending members and guests. She replaces Mr. Thomas Washington who resigned his administrative position, with School Board agreement, in order to pursue future professional endeavors.

Dr. Hines is a Penn Hills resident of 23 years with three graduated children, and a young daughter who attends our newly constructed Penn Hills Elementary School. She is a well known as a successful educator with diverse professional experience which includes being a Biology teacher, Assistant High School Principal, High School Principal, Curriculum Coordinator, Assistant Superintendent and currently, Acting Superintendent of our Penn Hills School District.

During the Rotary Club Presentation, Dr. Hines identified a few more important present and future school district challenges and also provided several examples of our district's accomplishments and student successes. She placed strong emphasis on the importance of "maintaining good classroom learning environments," in order for all students to be able to learn and achieve academic success. She touched upon aspects of curriculum design, student test scores, pending instructional programs, a pending student behavioral modification program, student residency and increased number of student exclusions from school. She concluded her presentation, by providing the audience an opportunity to participate in a Question and Answer activity.

Her presentation was most appreciated.

*- George Vurgich*

## A LITTLE TRASH TALK

Our adopted roads: Frankstown, Lime Hollow and Saltsburg, need some attention after this long winter. I will be looking for helping hands for our part in the State-wide clean up event on April 25th. We meet at the Park on Sycamore at 7:45AM, take a few minutes to get organized, and two short hours later, we're finished!



If you'd like to receive litter pick-up day e-mail alerts, e-mail me at [chcalitter@gmail.com](mailto:chcalitter@gmail.com). DON'T DELAY, GET ON THE LIST TODAY!

*- Mel Adams*

## Saturday, July 11 - 10 a.m. to Midnight Penn Hills High School

CHCA has sponsored a team at the Relay for Life for the last four years. We raised between \$1,000 to \$1,500 each year to help fight cancer. This year we are looking for new leaders as Jim and I would like to pass the baton to new folks with fresh and innovative ideas. Each year approximately 40-50 people have supported CHCA's team either by walking the track and paying a minimum of \$10 a walker or donating on line. This year the event will only last one day, making it easier for the teams. If you are willing to continue this tradition, the Relay for Life organizers have already started meeting to plan this year's event. Please call me or Jim Getsy at 412-795-2607 or email Jim at [jimgetsy@gmail.com](mailto:jimgetsy@gmail.com).



*- Andrea Getsy*

Our Civic Association and neighborhood would like to express our gratitude to the police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel of Penn Hills who give their time and unselfish service.



## CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE CH-CA.ORG!

(The exclamation point is for excitement and not part of the address.)

Check out the site! From there you can get to Facebook, Twitter and more!

## CANDIDATES' NIGHT VENUE

-May 11th, 7PM, Penn Hebron Garden Club, 237 Jefferson Rd- We're hosting a Candidates' Night for the open Magisterial District Judge seat. The seat is open since Judge Hromyak is stepping down. Magisterial District Judges handle landlord-tenant matters, small civil claims summary offenses and violations of municipal ordinances among other things. Due to our paramount interest in seeing codes enforced in our community we have taken great interest in this election.

Several candidates are vying for this position in both the Democratic and Republican primaries in May. We are hoping to have a representative from the League of Women Voters moderate.

-Lyon Zeibak

*Long-time Crescent Hills resident, Raymond K. "Ray" Schramm passed away. We extend our sympathy to his wife Nancy and family.*

*Father of Ross Molinaro of Earlwood Road has passed away. Our condolences go out to Ross and his family.*

*Joe Snare, long-time resident of Glenfield Road recently passed. Our deep sympathy to his wife, Peggy and family.*

*Mary Mueller, mother of Kim (Dave) Fraser passed away last fall. Our sincere condolences to her family.*

## PARK NEWS

There will be a Crescent Hills Park Committee meeting on **Thursday, March 26, 2015** at 145 Sycamore Drive. Any neighbor who would like some input into maintenance and improvement issues concerning the park is encouraged to attend. Contact Jan Kukucka at 412-793-2074.



The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on **Saturday, April 4th at 10 A.M.** (rain or shine) at the Crescent Hills Park. The CH Civic Association sponsors this free event although donations are most welcome! Visits with the Easter Bunny and treats are available to children of all ages. Group games will be held, weather permitting. Any neighbor who would be willing to help with "setup," contact Jan at 412-793-2074.

The Park is available for rental to Crescent Hills neighbors. For details and scheduling, contact Heather Romanelli at 412-915-8412.

It's been a particularly snowy/icy winter at the park! Could you help clear out winter's debris? Watch for signs announcing a cleanup date in April.

The annual park fund drive flyer will be in the May newsletter. Please consider being generous as donations will be needed for maintenance/landscaping/new equipment projects at YOUR neighborhood-owned park!

- Jan Kukucka