



Crescent Hills
— Civic Association —



Letter from the President

You folks are just amazing! I'm barely 3 months into this and I already feel like we're working towards something great! There are a lot of activities to highlight this summer, but I particularly need to focus on two of them.

Our annual plant sale is in full force, and by the time you're reading this there will be only a few days left!!! We are using a new online platform to collect orders. Zeffy.com is free for non-profits (no fees like PayPal) and saves us time organizing information. Please check out the great order form our volunteers put together for this fundraiser:

tinyurl.com/chcaplantsale

My second goal is to **create buzz about our community** through our events. A comment I have heard is that the CHCA mostly does events for kids and families. Well, I reached out to the Penn Hills location of Arsenal Cider House, and they are happy to host a gathering for us! We are combining it with our neighborhood yard sale so you can make some dough selling your old stuff in the morning, then spend it on good food and great drinks at Arsenal while listening to live music and playing games with your new friends! More info to follow.

The third goal was **updating our fundraising options**. I already mentioned Zeffy.com for the plant sale, but we are also trying out the service for a new online membership form. You can conveniently pay with a credit card or checking account. We are also experimenting with "tiered" membership and would love to hear what you think about it! If you have not yet paid member dues this year and would like to try out the new platform, you can go to tinyurl.com/chcadonate2025 or scan this QR code:



You can even set up annual payments so you don't have to worry about forgetting to contribute next year!

The fourth goal is the hardest nut to crack. I want our volunteers (and myself!) to **not feel overwhelmed** by all the work we do. It is good work, but it still takes time. On that note, please see our Call for Volunteers section to see if there is anything you'd like to help out with. You'll do good and feel good doing it.

There's so much else going on behind the scenes, but to quickly summarize a few additional projects we have started this year:

- Updating our insurance coverage
- Building a new website
- Exploring affordable replacements for tech services, grass cutting, and admin supplies/printing
- Researching and applying to grants that cater to parks and playgrounds

All this and we're coming into our busiest time of year for activities. Just look at everything happening in June! Volleyball every Monday, Yoga every Thursday, and we have something happening every Saturday too--events for kids and adults alike! We hope to see you at some of these events. We want to get to know you!

Crescent Hills Civic Association
SPRING PLANT SALE

Join us for our annual plant sale fundraiser, where you can breathe new life into your garden while supporting the CHCA!

Place orders by **May 4th** (scan QR code or visit tinyurl.com/chcaplantsale)
Pick up: **Saturday, May 17th 10:00 am-1:00 pm**
Location: **Crescent Hills Community Park**



The Memorial Day Picnic this year will have a few modest twists on our classic neighborhood gathering. I invite you to join us to see the great work being done at the park. We'll talk about the sports court project, efforts by the park committee to keep our wonderful park feeling fresh, and our hopes for the future of the park. Check out the event info in this newsletter and on social media, and we hope you'll join us!

In the last newsletter I stated multiple goals, and I want to provide an update on each.

My first goal is to **expand our social media presence**. We have established an Instagram account: **(@crescenthillscivicassociation)** It is slowly collecting followers, and we're increasing the amount and variety of posts we share to our 600+ Facebook followers. If you haven't followed us yet, I encourage you to do so!

Calendar of Events

4/26 - Park Clean Up (9am-Noon)

5/3 - Park Clean Up (9am-Noon)

5/4 - Final Day to Order Plants

5/17 - Plant Sale Order Pickup (10am-1pm @ the Park)

5/26 - Memorial Day Picnic (1:30pm-6pm @ the Park)

6/2 thru Aug - Monday Night Volleyball (6pm)

6/5 thru 7/31 - Thursday Night Yoga (6:30pm)

6/7 - Litter pickup (7:45am)

6/14 - Neighborhood Yard Sale (9am-Noon)

& Crescent Hills Day @ Arsenal Cider House
(Noon-9pm, Live Music 5pm)

6/21 - Reading in the Park (10am)

6/28 - Reading in the Park (10am)

7/5 - Reading in the Park (10am)

7/12 - Reading in the Park (10am)

7/17 - Board Meeting (6pm @ the Park)

7/19 - Reading in the Park (10am)

7/26 - Litter Pickup (7:45am)

7/26 - Reading in the Park (10am)

10/11 - Litter Pickup (7:45am)

Neighborhood News

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to:

Mark Yates of 176 Crescent Hills Rd. at the loss of his partner Doug McAnlis in October 2024. Mark and Doug's home was displayed on one of our holiday house tours and their garden featuring star gazer lilies was on our yard tour in 2013.

Mary Beth Shimko of 169 Spring Grove Rd. at the passing of her father. Mary Beth can be seen walking her dog around the neighborhood most days rain or shine.

Sylvia Lynch of 184 Spring Grove Rd. whose husband Bob died on January 19. Bob was raised in Crescent Hills. He and Sylvia have spent many years helping to keep Crescent Hills beautiful and specifically taking care of the gardens at the entrance to Crescent Hills and Spring Grove Rds.

We extend 'get well' wishes to:

Tom Robinson of 163 Crescent Hills Road

Ken Bott who has been battling lung cancer for more than two years.

We extend warm wishes for a long and happy marriage to

Tanner Stull and Colby Keim of 163 Spring Grove Road.

Call for Volunteers

Lost and Found Pharmacy, a non-profit designed to help people afford medications, is pursuing a permanent location and currently seeks volunteers to help with the move. If you have experience in the following areas, please call Volunteer Coordinator, Coralee Gionta at 412-426-0079 as the Lord moves you: fundraising (your donations are most welcome), plumbing, paving/resurfacing, retail signs and facades, drywall, flooring, painting. We look forward to working with you and may the Lord bless you in your work.

Enjoy reading? Share your love of books with kids! We're looking for someone to join Reading in the Park and pick up two Saturday events this summer. Contact crescenthillscivicassociation@gmail.com

Chef Coordinator for Memorial Day Picnic. We've got the food covered, and there's folks willing to help cook, but we could benefit from someone willing to follow up and make sure all cooking shifts are covered! Reach out to Tim at timothymerzak@gmail.com if you want to help coordinate.

Litter pickers always needed! Look for Oscar and join us at the park. We close one of our adopted roads for 2 hours during pickups so our volunteers can safely beautify our community!

Nickolas Theofilis Memorial EMS Scholarship

We reported in our Winter 2023 newsletter (see CH-CA.org) about the loss of Crescent Hills resident Nickolas Theofilis, age 23, who died on November 27, 2022 while on duty as a Penn Hills EMS Paramedic. He was given a hero's farewell by the community. Last October, Nickolas' family was invited to Harrisburg to accept a Keystone First Responder Award (one of 12 awarded) on his behalf. Also in November 2024, Penn Hills was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the state to purchase an ambulance. This ambulance will have Nickolas' name and the number of the ambulance he was driving at the time of the accident. In January his family started a fundraising campaign so that a memorial scholarship can be created to benefit people who want to become EMS or paramedics. When the scholarship is officially established, we will report when and where neighbors can contribute.

Litter report

9 volunteers from Crescent Hills and 1 from Rosedale collected 37 bags of trash, 2 sofas, 2 tires, 2 toilets, and car accident debris from Lime Hollow Rd. There's still more work to do but thank you all who helped! Our next pickup is June 7th, meet up at the park 7:45am!



Neighborhood Yard Sale & Crescent Hills Hangout @ Arsenal Cider House!



Turn your old wares into fresh cider by joining us for our annual neighborhood yard sale on Saturday, June 14th, from 9am to noon followed by an afternoon of fun at Arsenal Cider House on Universal Rd!

Arsenal will have drinks (hard cider, local beer, and non-alcoholic beverages) and food for sale, there will be live music @ 5pm, and lots of games including horseshoes, cornhole, and Jenga. Supervised children and leashed dogs are welcome. Arsenal will be open Noon-9pm at their Penn Hills location 1700 Universal Rd.

Ca\$h Ba\$h

Help our friends in the Penn Hills Rotary raise funds at their Ca\$h Ba\$h on May 3rd! Dinner, drinks, and 4 chances to win included with your ticket!

www.pennhillsrotary.org/events/cah-bah-2025

Memorial Day Picnic 2025

Monday, May 26
immediately following the Penn Hills parade



Free food, great music, and lots of fun! You are invited to the Crescent Hills Memorial Day picnic on Monday, May 26, immediately following the Penn Hills parade, approximately 1:30 p.m. Our picnic is a neighborhood tradition and the best way to start the summer! Join us at 3pm to review the work that's been done at the park this past year (much of which was made possible by our members and donors).

Are you a grill boss? Volunteer to take a one-hour slot grilling! Food and grill provided, just e-mail us to get in the grill game. Hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, lemonade, water and chips will be available. Donations are accepted but not required. Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to share (one that is not affected by the heat). BYOB is fine too.

Challenge a friend to a corn hole game. Bring balls, trikes, scooters for children to play on the painted playground. This event is happening at Crescent Hills Park, 141 Sycamore Drive. Members can renew and pick up their new Crescent Hills directory.

Membership Update

The Crescent Hills Civic Association membership drive for 2025 is still in effect. Membership fee is \$15 per household. If you are unable to pay but would like to become/remain a member, contact me at the phone number listed below, or try our new online donation form at tinyurl.com/chcadonate2025!

The CHCA Board would like to extend a very big thank you to all who have already become 2025 members and would like every household in the neighborhood to consider participating. Your \$15 helps to support various events in the neighborhood plus maintenance of the bus shelters on Frankstown and Saltsburg Roads, the quarterly newsletter and other special activities.

Also, members receive the latest Crescent Hills phone directory. If you are a current Member, and have not received your directory, please contact me.

Thank you for your support in making Crescent Hills a wonderful place to live!!

Jan Yanko
Membership Committee
412-785-8473

Park News

Crescent Hills Park is most often used for small gatherings and “pick up” games where people are just enjoying the green space. There are some events, though, to which the whole Penn Hills community is invited.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt

Held this year on Easter Saturday, April 19, is one of those events. It draws 30 to 50 kids who- in good weather- play games, gather eggs, and receive treats from our neighborhood Easter Bunny, Alexandra Newby. She has taken on this role for 16 years while juggling a tough academic and work schedule. Although this party is held “rain or shine”, it’s more fun when it’s “shine”! Thanks to the Madera, Blazina, Getsy and Zeibak families for helping children enjoy this gathering of goodwill. Update: this year’s egg hunt drew over 60 kids! We had great weather and a great turnout!

Volleyball returns Monday, 6/2 at 6pm! Join us at the park on Monday nights through August!

Yoga in the Park – Crescent Hills Park

Looking for a midweek reset? Join us for Yoga in the Park every Thursday from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM at beautiful Crescent Hills Park, starting June 5! This free, all-levels Vinyasa flow class is the perfect way to unwind, connect with nature, and build strength and flexibility. Led by Tracey, an experienced and welcoming instructor, each session offers something for everyone—whether you’re brand new to yoga or a seasoned practitioner. Bring a mat, some water, and your friends or family. It’s a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, move your body, and enjoy the outdoors. No registration required—just show up and flow!

Sports Court Project

The improvement of the sports court drain system was completed in mid- October by the Folino Co. This engineer-recommended system involved the creation of a rain garden to collect the rain that falls on the court. So far, the flooding of the court has been eliminated! This season will see an effort to grow plants in the rain garden and grow grass on the hillside. The fence surrounding the rain garden that keeps deer and people out of the area will be finished. The CHCA is attempting to secure grant money for phase 2: resurfacing the court and replacing the fencing. However, these grants are not awarded or decided until August. Stay tuned!

Park Reminders

The park is not available for rental, due to parking, noise & cleanup limitations. If you are using the park for a larger group, know that use will not be exclusive. Please, be considerate about cleaning and

courteously take garbage home (or elsewhere) to not overflow the available cans.

If you see illegal activities, for example: pot-smoking, underage drinking or equipment being damaged, call 911.

No fireworks or open fires in the park.

No dumping of garbage or yard waste in the park or hillside.

The park’s closed at dusk, as shown by a chain stretched across the entrance. If someone’s on the grounds after that, they’ll be considered “ up to no good” and police will be called.

The cost of maintaining the CH park: Insurance, taxes, port-a-potty rental, grass cutting, equipment repairs, mulch and limestone & other landscaping supplies = \$6,500/ a year. This is the price with no emergencies (like tree removal). If you have not done so yet in 2025, please consider donating to the CH park!

Spring Cleanup Days at the Park

Saturday, April 26 from 9A-12noon

Please come for any amount of time you can spare to help gather sticks, rake leaves and clean debris from the park.

Saturday May 3, from 9A -12noon.

Help weed gardens and lay mulch in gardens and playground.

Thursday, May 1 from 9A -2P

Trinity Christian students have volunteered to help in cleaning our park as part of their community-work day!

Other Spring Projects

The “Peaceful Playground” will be power-washed, which may necessitate repainting.

The area near the storage house will be re-fenced. Thanks to Bob Macbeth, Dave Fraser & Russ Biedrzycki who have started this project to honor the late Jim Getsy.

The shingles on the roof of the storage house will be replaced.

Thanks to everyone who uses the park with respect and consideration for others!

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