



Crescent Hills  
— Civic Association —

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**Karen & Mark Lantz**

**Litter**

**Judy Conroy**

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**Letter from the President**

We hope you are enjoying the summer so far. We would like to jazz it up a little with a neighborhood picnic. This would be a great opportunity to welcome the new residents of 26 households to Crescent Hills. This summer we have cautiously managed to hold 13 Readings in the Park, two months of volleyball and Yoga in the Park, one plant sale, one organized tree planting, sponsored a neighborhood yard sale, and had the best fundraiser of our association's life. Riding on the tails of this success we will hold our first Labor Day Picnic and you are invited! Keeping with our cautious protocol, rather than sharing meals, we will provide all the picnic fixings and volunteers will cook and serve the food.

**LABOR DAY PICNIC**

The picnic will be Labor Day, September 6 from 1 to 5 p.m. Food will be grilled and served from 1:30 to 3:30 to allow those volunteers time to relax. Donation cans will be available to pay for the food (hot dogs, hamburgers, macaroni and cheese, snack packs, and sweets) and beverages (beer, soda, lemonade, and water.) As he has done in the past at the Memorial Day Picnics, Tom Haas of Hathaway Court will play guitar. An ice ball vendor will attend to sell her cool treats. We'll put up the road signs on the children's court to challenge our future drivers. Bring along those trikes and scooters, your chairs, sun hats, and enthusiasm. There is plenty of space to spread out in the park. We are counting on a lot of residents to show up. Please do not let us down! The Rain Date is Sunday, September 12.

**FUND DRIVE**

In the last newsletter we reported that an anonymous donor gave us \$5,600, an entire year's park budget, in order to use it as a challenge fund to increase donations. We now happily report that the Challenge Fund enabled us to almost double the park budget in only a 30-day period. In addition, another 27 donors made contributions for a total of 132 households who are supporting our neighborhood treasure, the park. What an extraordinary gift! We now have a cushion to handle unexpected emergencies at the park and to plan park improvements. You will see in the Park Report in this newsletter that we already had to use \$1,500 to remove a tree that was poised to come down on our storage building. We cannot thank our anonymous donor enough or thank those of you who met this challenge.



# REDBUD TREE PLANTING



On a cold, wintery-type day this May, a number of hardy residents (shown in the above picture) showed up to plant a tree in honor of our first civic association president. Marion Decker, who lived on Crescent Hills Road, was a founding member and president of the Crescent Hills Civic Club from 1935-1936. The tree planting was done by the Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission President Kathy Raborn, her son Collin, and resident and Tree Commission volunteer, Rick Duncan. They are the masked folks to the right of the tree. They also showed us the proper way to plant a tree. The lesson was “never lie to a tree.” That means don’t pack nutrient-enriched special soil around the roots because the roots will not want to leave that space as it grows. The roots will go circular and not move into the poorer soil making it easier for the tree to topple. There was more to the lesson, of course. We thank the Shade Tree Commission for this lesson and the planting. We thank former Spring Grove Road resident Sue Hochreiter for donating the funds for this purpose. A commemorative plaque will be laid near the tree at the Labor Day Picnic. If you missed the planting, we will plant two smaller Redbuds at the park, with the Shade Tree Commission’s help, on October 9. You are welcome to attend. We will put the information on our website when we have the details.

## CODE

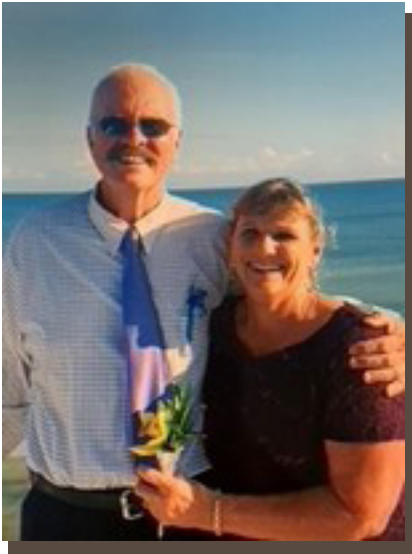
There is a flier included in this newsletter by former resident Mel Adams of Crescent Hills Road. We think the information is still timely.



## PHANTOM GARDENERS

Will whomever maintains the garden at the corner of Spring Grove and Frankstown Roads fess up so we can properly thank you for sharing your gardening skills. We know that Judy Conroy of Glenfield Drive has frequently cleaned up this area also. Sylvia and Bob Lynch of Spring Grove Road have planted and maintained the gardens at Crescent Hills Road and at the bus stop on Spring Grove Road for many years. Susan Chikalla of Hathaway Court and Julie Madera and her family of Earlwood Road have made the garden and lot around the Saltsburg Road bus shelter a beautiful and clean place. If you are new to Crescent Hills and you wonder about the kind of neighborhood in which you now live, this unsolicited involvement and commitment by your neighbors should tell you all you need to know.





Tom and Judy Conroy moved to Crescent Hills in August 1983 where they have raised 2 sons, Dan and Scott. Now retired, Tom worked many years in probation and parole and then as a Clinical Social Worker for the Department of Veterans Affairs. Judy, also retired, worked as an Adapted Physical Education Teacher at the Children's Institute in Squirrel Hill.

Judy served as President of CHCA from 1991-1992 and Chair of the Litter Committee for the past five years. Tom and Judy have been involved with the park since they moved here in 1983. Individually they have served as Chair of the Park Committee for numerous years as well as helped with park maintenance and activities. The Conroys have been involved in various CHCA committees and activities and are always willing to lend a hand when needed.

Outside of CHCA, Tom and Judy were very involved with St. Bartholomew Parish and school and also served in various capacities with the Penn Hills Baseball Association. Judy is involved with Special Olympics, The Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank and 412 Food Rescue. You most likely will recognize them as they walk around the neighborhood every day — Rain or Shine.

Tom and Judy say, "This was a great neighborhood to raise Dan and Scott and we will always remember and value the friendships and memories we have made here."

The Conroys will soon be moving to their home in South Carolina and will be missed, not only by the Crescent Hills neighborhood, but by the entire community! We wish Tom and Judy the very best in this next chapter of their lives!

## Volunteer Drivers and Runners Needed for the Senior Center

One of the most valuable services provided by the Penn Hills Senior Service Center is the Home Delivered Meals service, or HDM, which delivers meals every weekday throughout the year to home-bound seniors. There is a real need to add an additional route to the deliveries but more volunteers are needed. Each car has a Driver who drives a specific route, and a Runner who "runs" the meals to the home. Cars are provided by the Center and are fueled and ready to go each morning between 8:45 and 9:00. You don't need to commit to an entire week, just 2 to 3 hours one day would be helpful, or even indicate your willingness to be a substitute driver or runner. If you are interested, please call the HDM coordinator, Jan Austin at 412-244-3408 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Leave your name and phone number and she will get back to you. Or call 412-244-3405 and ask for Lena; both staff members will be able to give you further information.

In addition to providing meals, this gives some seniors their only contact with an outside person and also serves as a welfare check. If you know of someone who could benefit from the HDM service, call the above numbers.

**PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING THE HDM PROGRAM AT YOUR SENIOR CENTER!**

## PLANT SALE

While May seems like a distant memory, it was just three months ago that we pulled off another home-delivery plant sale. Residents and our vendor seem to love it. Ten volunteers sorted over \$3,000 in plants and delivered them to 49 customers. All of this was accomplished in a 3-hour period. This was an increase over last year's order resulting in an \$800 profit for the park. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser. Thank you especially to the following workers: Dennis O'Malley, Mark and Karen Lantz, Nick and Linda Kornick, Pam Woods, Judy Conroy, Phil Sparano, Bill and Chris Miller and Jim Getsy. Covid or not, we'll probably continue this type of plant sale in the future as it is more efficient and profitable.



## REPLACEMENT OF THE SPRING RIDER

As you may have read in the fall of 2019, the Inchworm spring rider was stolen from our park. It was a dastardly deed causing us to equip our park with surveillance cameras. Despite our best observation efforts, that spring rider remains lost to us. But in this amazing year of generosity, Mimi and Bob Wilson of Spring Grove Road have offered to replace the rider, on behalf of their grandchildren, who they say love being there. Lana, Brooklyn, Ronan and Heath are often brought to the park by their grandparents. We cannot get another Inchworm, but we have ordered a Zebra aluminum spring rider, due to arrive later this fall. Thank you Wilson Family for this generous donation! We hope you and your grandchildren continue to visit for a long time. We will all feel better when the space by the Chipmunk rider is no longer empty.

# CRESCENT HILLS PRIDE!

*We are so proud of our neighborhood* and how it has grown over the years, but we keep it all together. Here are some, just some, friendly reminders written for your reading pleasure so we can continue to maintain and enhance the quality of life for you, the residents of Crescent Hills.

## *Dog Walking Etiquette*

1) No Trespassing: When walking your pet around a residential neighborhood it is universally accepted as rude if you allow your dog to walk on others lawns, into their gardens, snack on their landscaping or urinate on their mailboxes, garbage cans or lawn decorations. Best to keep them to the street. Yes, even female dogs can cause brown patches in the grass with their pee-pee.



2) Pick Up the Poo: Obviously, dog walkers should be prepared under all circumstances with a plastic bag (or several) for picking up doggie doo... and simply toting a bag isn't enough-- don't "forget" to use it.

3) Leashes: You lead the way, not your dog.

Avoid retractable leashes, or at least use them properly. Ideally, your dog should walk at your side. Don't let your dog wander into private yards.

## *Penn Hills Leaf and Yard Waste Composting Program*

Acceptable material:

Leaves, Garden Residue

Shrubby and Tree Trimmings less than 1/2 inch in diameter

Unacceptable material:

No Grass (grass clippings are accepted by the trash pickup)

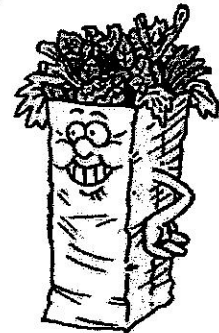
No Dirt, Stones or Roots, No Tape or Plastic Bags

No Other Paper Bags, Boxes or Other Containers

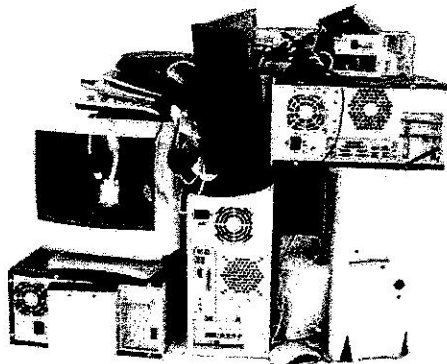
**MISSED THE SPRING LEAF COLLECTION?**

The above acceptable items can be dropped off in approved paper leaf bags at the compost site throughout the year by making an appointment with Public Works (412-798-2151).

A minimum of 24 hours notice is needed to schedule an appointment. Unfortunately, this is necessary because someone dumped 200 tires there when the gates were open all day on the honor system. Sad, but true.



## *No More Driving to Lime Hollow Rd\* to Throw Your Old TV Out Your Car Window*



Just kidding, we know *you* don't do that, but some people do.

\*BTW this is one of our adopted roads that is always full of litter that we pick up four times a year.

Sara: "John, get that gosh dang old TV out of the hall closet!"

John: "Okay, dear, pull the truck around. You drive and I'll throw it out the back."

This is easier! Call **Allied (Republic) Waste Services** 877-788-9400 to schedule a **FREE** pick-up of your broken or obsolete computers, TVs, VCRs, monitors, etc.



## **SLOW DOWN,** *please, pretty please*

We must keep in mind that Crescent Hills is residential and we need to go the speed limit (or under) to better protect our children, animals and anyone out for a walk. We have a lot of curves in our streets, part of why Crescent Hills is such a pretty neighborhood. Those same curves also make it hard to know what lies ahead. Remember those filmstrips in Drivers' Ed that show children darting out from between parked cars? It is much easier to avoid a tragedy at 20 mph than at 35. Which brings me to the next subject-- parking on the street.

### *Street Parkers be Courteous*

When not parking in your own driveway, at least be sensitive to others and make sure you leave space for your neighbors to exit their own driveways. Also, be conscious that you do not create a blind spot by parking on a curve.

People should not be parking on other people's properties at all... Well, everyone loves a party and there are exceptions, but the CHCA has had cars parked at our local park that don't move overnight, some have had cars parked on their own personal property in the grass by the road and it tears it up and leaves deep ruts. At least one person has come home to find a stranger's car in their driveway, blocking them from even parking in their own drive. So let's all be conscientious and considerate of other peoples property. Perhaps some of us could use our driveways and garages more... Just a thought?

Check under your vehicle for fluid leakage. Most of the liquids that make your car run not only create ugly stains when leaked or spilled, but can be hazardous to the environment. When you notice a puddle under your vehicle, fix it or see your mechanic promptly. Cover the spill with kitty litter or "floor-dry" type product and sweep it up when the liquid has been absorbed.



### *We All Want a Little Curb Appeal*

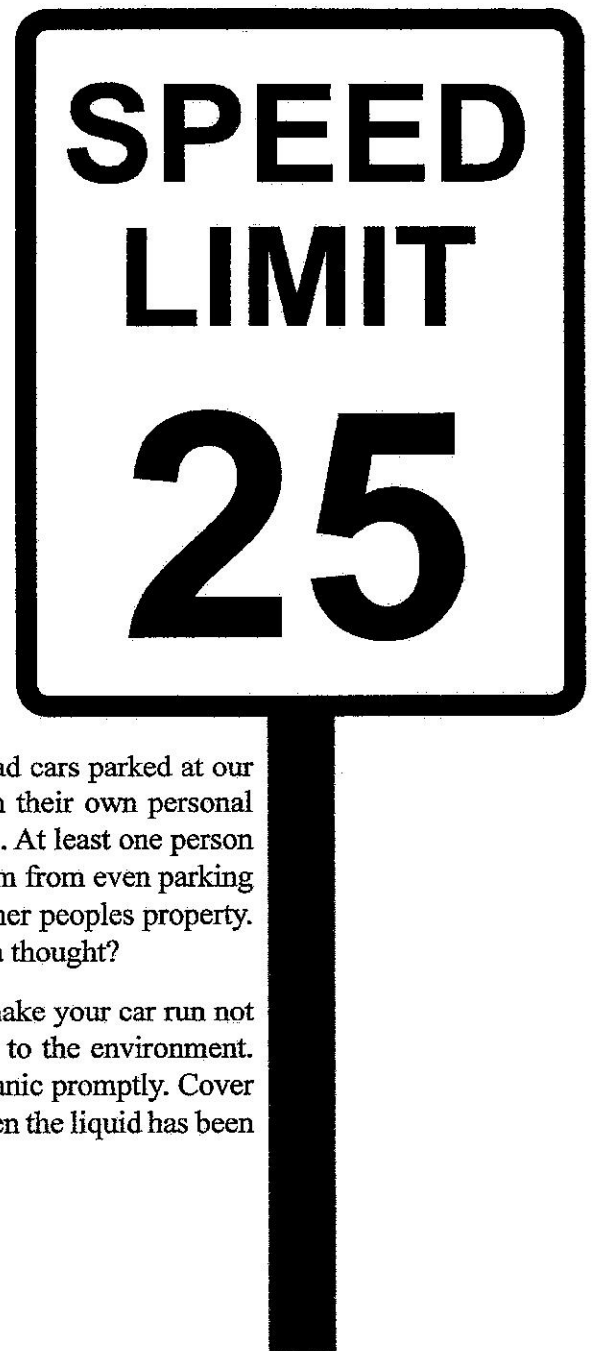
If I can't get picked to be on the TV show, how can I maintain my yard? But, I'm so busy... no time... work, work, work. Well, just cut the grass and keep your yard litter and trash free. Some of us do have more time than others. Sometimes the grass is greener next door... because it's fake -- LOL, that's a joke, ha, ha. Getting fined by the Township is no joke. High grass and weeds and lack of shrubbery maintenance have made the top 10 violations that are now priorities for Code Enforcement.

**Just a few simple things can make a big difference. Bring in your trash and recycle bins after trash day. Pick up any litter you see, rake leaves in the fall, yadda, yadda, yadda. Keep it simple and you've got curb appeal!**

### *In Closing*

Let's continue striving to raise our property values and keep that "Neighborhood Spirit," because we love where we live — Crescent Hills.

Visit our website [www.CH-CA.org](http://www.CH-CA.org) for additional news, info and events.







On March 26, 2021, our front lawn was adorned with a HUGE sign: “LAST DAY OF WORK – HAPPY RETIREMENT”, a tribute from our daughters, Katie Polk of Cranberry Twp. and Jen Cook of Plum and their families.

Hello, I’m Rita Cook and my husband of 45 years, Gene, and I have been residents of Crescent Hills on Glenfield Drive since May 1979. The yard sign was in celebration of my 50 years as a registered nurse and Gene’s 47 years as a medical professional as we retired on the same day.

After being a “Candy Striper” at Jeannette District Memorial Hospital and graduating in 1968 from, Penn Joint High School (now Penn Trafford), I graduated in 1971 from Columbia Hospital School of Nursing in Wilkinsburg with a diploma in nursing. (FYI - Columbia Hospital later merged with Pittsburgh Hospital to become Forbes Regional Hospital in Monroeville.) It was there I discovered a love for cardiology while working in the ICU/CCU and ultimately learning how to perform a new cardiology test: Treadmill Exercise Test. In 1982 I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Penn State University, McKeesport campus. For over 25 years, I worked for private cardiology groups as their hospital-based nurse at Mercy Hospital (UPMC Mercy now) later becoming Mercy’s manager/supervisor of the Non-Invasive Cardiology Department. My final 17 working years were split between being a Clinician on a telemetry unit at UPMC St. Margaret and a nurse in the Nuclear Cardiology Department at UPMC East. Oh my, the strides I have witnessed in the medical field over those 50 years!!!

Gene, a 1967 Gateway High School graduate, obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA. Subsequently as a supervisor of Neurosurgical Research at Montefiore Hospital in Oakland, he helped advance work in the treatment of stroke, hypertension and a variety of other devastating health problems. After becoming a registered vascular technologist, he spent his last 25 working years performing a variety of vascular ultrasound tests at UPMC Mercy and a private group of vascular surgeons.

Now it’s time to relax and continue to enjoy our Crescent Hills Community. We started out taking our daughters to the Crescent Hills Community Park and now we are taking our grandchildren. Hope to see you around the neighborhood.

## **PENN HILLS SERVICE ASSOCIATION**

Penn Hills Service Association is in need of volunteers to help with food distribution. Volunteers can pick the day they want to work. Contact Joanne Fascio at 412-828-8784.

If you know of anyone in need of food, have that person call the Penn Hills Service Association hotline at 412-798-2711.

## **Congratulations!**

Congratulations from Crescent Hills Civic Association to the recently-formed Rosedale Civic Association on their successful fundraiser and rapidly expanding membership! Good work!

## Park Notes - Jan Kukucka

Crescent Hills Park was the spot this spring and summer for sports, games, walks on the trail, children's play and small picnics. Regular activities included a Saturday children's program, a yoga class and Monday night volleyball. Thanks to all who used the park respectfully this season.

Keeping our park useable takes a coordinated effort. It starts with paid professionals who cut the grass, landscape, remove trees and storm debris and provide mulch and limestone.

But "it takes a village" to keep the park user friendly. Thanks to these neighborhood volunteers who have donated their time and skills toward that effort:

- \* Lauren Javens, who supervised the children's reading program and supplemented books with fun activities around a weekly theme.
- \* Bob MacBeth, who organized Monday volleyball.
- \* Tracey Salah, who led a Monday yoga session.
- \* Stephanie Strauss and Aaron Norris, who used their shredder to clear tree debris from behind park fences.
- \* Tom Conroy and Jim Getsy, who helped clean up tree debris after a recent storm.
- \* Ed Blazina, who replaced wooden rungs on the play fort and weeds/trims garden areas.
- \* Rob Jones, who designed new signs reminding users the park is maintained by volunteers.
- \* Josiah Leisher, who proposed a plan for improving the driveway at the park entrance

### Neighbors can help this effort by:

- ▶ Taking any large amount of garbage that you have created home with you.
- ▶ Cleaning up after your pet.
- ▶ Weeding/picking up sticks as you walk the trail.
- ▶ Notifying police when you see illegal activity or behavior in the park.

**Something that's not helpful is leaving items at the park for someone else to take or use. This is a form of dumping and will be prosecuted.**

### A few activities are expected in the next few months:

- \* Penn Hills High School tennis team will use the tennis court for practice sessions.
- \* Additional limestone dust will be spread on the trail to improve the surface.
- \* A new spring riding toy will be installed in the toddler area to replace the one that was stolen last year.

As a reminder, the park is open year round. However, in the winter, snow and ice are not removed from the parking lot or walking trail. Please use caution and stay safe if you use the park in the winter.

**Don't forget to put the can away! -  
A reminder from your neighborhood civic association.**



Trash cans, rubbish or other refuse shall not be placed in the front yard or at the curb prior to 4 p.m. on the day preceding garbage pick-up and shall be removed from the curb line and/or front yard by midnight on pick-up day and be placed out of view from the street. For more details see Penn Hills Municipal Ordinance 1060.33.



## YOGA IN THE PARK

Early this summer Yoga in the Park commenced under the guidance of Sycamore Drive resident, Tracey Salah. Tracey normally provides yoga instruction for a fee. She is offering her skills for free at our park on Monday mornings, 9:30 a.m. You just need a mat and the willingness to bend and stretch. Weather permitting, yoga lessons will go on until the end of September (excluding Labor Day). For those who want a more challenging "hot yoga" experience, Tracey teaches classes at Yoga Flow in Shadyside on Mondays at noon and Thursdays at 6 p.m. and also in Murrysville on Sundays at 9 a.m. Do not be afraid! Come and take advantage of this unique opportunity to enjoy your park and stay fit.



## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Get well wishes and prayers go out to Larry Boyer of Sycamore Drive, and our thoughts and prayers go out to Bill Perer and his family of Hathaway Court.

We heard that Jean Meyer of Crescent Hills Road has returned home from her hospital stay and is feeling great again, and that Mimi Eberle of Spring Grove Road is on the mend from a broken leg.

We would like to offer condolences to the family of former resident, Peg Malpede. Peg and her family lived on Garlow Drive for many years.

Condolences also to the family of Roberta Moore of Hathaway Court. Bobbie was chairman of the 2019 Holiday House Tour and contributed in many other significant ways to Crescent Hills. She will be missed by her many friends in the neighborhood.

## LITTER

We would like to congratulate Bill and Maureen Moutz on being recognized for their volunteer work throughout the community. And to offer a big Thank You because, in addition to their volunteer and landscaping activities, these Rosedale residents regularly show up to help with our litter cleanup. Former resident Wayne Lundberg travels a good distance to join our litter pickups and we thank him, Faith Milazzo of the Penn Hills Anti-Litter Group, and all our residents who lend a hand (4 times a year) to keeping our designated roads clean.

**The next Litter pickup is scheduled for October 16th.**

You will read in this newsletter that our current Litter Chairperson is moving this fall. We have shed a few tears over this loss but we must face the facts and find a new anti-litter leader. Please consider how important this role is to the civic association. You will see a PennDOT sign on the bottom of Lime Hollow that proclaims that the road is kept clean by the Crescent Hills Civic Association. Another sign on Frankstown Rd. proclaims the same. We have done this for 15 years and we want to keep this badge of honor. But we must have a leader. If you are willing, there is still time to get first rate training from Judy Conroy before she leaves town. You know how to reach us.

## STORYTIME IN THE PARK

Lauren Javens, [LaurenJavens@gmail.com](mailto:LaurenJavens@gmail.com)

This year's Storytime in the Park ran 13 Saturdays from May 1- July 31. We read stories like Ruby's Worry and Wordy Birdy to help us grow emotionally, I Am Enough and There's Only One Me to affirm all of the good things about ourselves, and Alma, and How She Got Her Name, Mango, Abuela, and Me, and Yasmin the Superhero to learn about other cultures. We read some fun and silly books too!

Children and grown-ups had a blast crafting with an open craft buffet the last few weeks with fewer Covid restrictions. Storytime in the Park had some guest readers like Ms. Natalie from Pre-K Counts, a parent Nathan Kalbach, and some special gift bags from Ms. Tina Zins and the Penn Hills Library. We read Those Shoes and Maddi's Fridge to foster empathy and ended our Storytime in the Park with a food drive that benefited the Lincoln Park Community Center, a division of the Western PA Center for Just



Solutions. We raised \$170 and three large boxes of food to help our neighbors in Penn Hills. Please follow the Crescent Hills Civic Association on Facebook to find out what Storytime in the Park 2022 will bring!

