



Crescent Hills
— Civic Association —



Letter from the President

It has been years since CHCA sponsored as many activities as we did this year. Vice President Susan Chikalla describes our exciting summer in this newsletter. In addition to the Family Fun Nights, we also held a plant sale in May that produced a 44% increase over the prior year and the best profit ever. The Memorial Day Picnic followed and was well-attended. In June we sponsored a community-

wide yard sale and included a CHCA table. Then we let loose a program-a-month, ending with this month's Wine and Cheese in the Park. That day's weather was touch and go for a while but ended up being just perfect. Some adults were seen roasting marshmallows over the fire pit, me included.

Our corner gardens, now with eye catching CHCA banners first purchased by Leslie Skweres are cared for by the following volunteers:

- Mimi Marko and Jim Eberle – Spring Grove/Frankstown Roads
- Leslie Skweres – Glenfield/Frankstown Roads
- Sylvia and Bob Lynch and now John Bednarz – Crescent Hills Road



- Madera Family – Earlwood/Saltsburg Roads. You will see in photos in a separate article, the amazing transformation of this shelter that included fresh donated gravel and paint, as well as a new curb. Julie Madera personally lobbied Code Enforcement for the latter.

We are grateful to these dedicated residents who not only plant the flowers but trim the bushes, pick up the litter and remove the garbage, keeping our neighborhood looking its best.

New Board

I am happy to report that starting in January, CHCA will have new officers and committee chairs. The following most wonderful residents have accepted these positions:

Susan Chikalla, Hathaway Court – President
 Pam Woods, Earlwood Road – Vice President
 Rebecca Williams, Earlwood Road – Treasurer
 Yvette Logan, Wisteria Drive – Recording Secretary
 Juleen Madera, Earlwood Road – Welcome Chairperson
 Alex Smedberg, Garlow Drive – Park Camera Steward

In this day and age when organizations struggle to get and keep volunteers, CHCA is proving to be an exception. You are all to be congratulated for your willingness to take on these jobs. Thank you to: the officers and committee chairs who remained for a repeat performance; to those board members who worked with me for the last three years; and especially to Nick Kornick. Nick has served as Treasurer (never complaining mind you) for seven years and three presidents, and a hundred events (exaggerating here). Speaking for Nick, we are both grateful for our replacements. I could not otherwise leave this position as confident as I am that all will be well with Crescent Hills Civic Association. To make things perfect, please, give Susan your support.



This is my last newsletter as your president. I will miss being the president of this 87-year-old vibrant organization. It has been a grand and heart-warming experience.

Andria Getsy

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS



This lovely gift bag, which also contains a CHCA branded coffee mug, is being presented to new neighbors by representatives of the Welcome Committee. Thank you Juleen Madera for assembling this gift on behalf of CHCA.

Welcome new neighbors!

CHCA CALENDAR

We got a late start on this fall's newsletter and it is unlikely we will put out another before the end of the year. While it is a bit early to talk about the holidays, we must let you know now that we are planning to have our annual party December 9 at the Oakmont Yacht Club. Mark your calendar and watch for more information that will come by email mid-November. If we do not have your email address and you want to attend, please supply that information now. Send an email to CrescentHillsCivicAssociation@gmail.com and we will add you to the list.

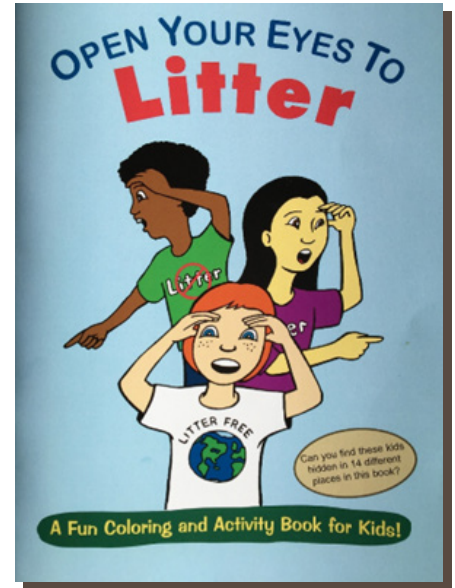
Also we are happy to report that we will bring back the salad luncheon that is held on Martin Luther King Day. We will provide the details in the January newsletter.

STIMULUS FUNDS

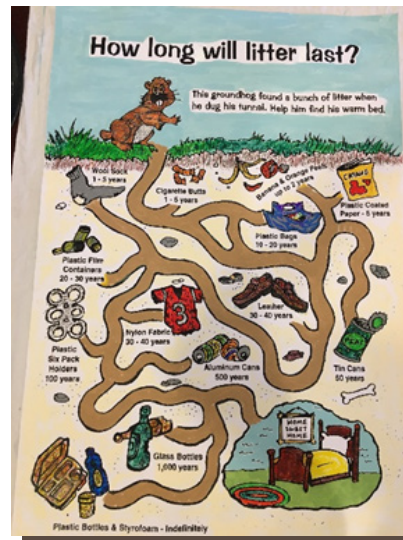
When our Park Chairperson Jan Kukucka gave a report on the park this summer, she pointed out that our Sports Court, which includes both a tennis court and a field hockey court, has been used extensively this year. Because of a drainage problem, we have wanted to resurface this court for a long time. In 2021, we put in a request for stimulus funds partly for this purpose. Community Parks, including ours, have been designated in the Municipal Stimulus Plan for a share of a designated \$175,000. This was done in part to compensate for the increased wear and tear on the parks from the Covid years. We are still waiting to hear news in this regard.

OPEN YOUR EYES TO LITTER

By the time this newsletter goes out, a new anti-litter program will have been presented to Penn Hills Elementary School by three community groups including Crescent Hills Civic Association. Penn Hills Rotary, Penn Hills Education Foundation and CHCA combined resources and had two volumes of anti-litter books ordered for the district's 1,200 elementary students. The book that is pictured will be given to 2nd and 3rd graders. A second book called "Think Before You Toss" will be provided to 4th and 5th graders. Coloring pages will be provided to K-1. The workbooks were created by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful,



which is the state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. With the state's permission, we enlarged and printed the books on quality cardstock and made 24 x 36" posters of "How long will litter last?" (You will be surprised to learn.) CHCA, Rotary and PHEF logos are on the back of the book. The posters are for each floor of the elementary school and two framed posters for the cafeteria. Teachers' guides corresponding to the workbook pages are also available.



This is not CHCA's first attempt to involve students in the anti-litter campaign. But this one will involve a larger group of students and with some discussion. We are grateful to our partners in this endeavor to educate the next generation. Thank you also Penn Hills School District for the opportunity to do this.

NEIGHBORHOOD SIGNS

If you post a sign about an upcoming event, please remember to remove it after the event. If you have posted signs on utility poles about a missing pet, we sincerely hope you are reunited. In any case, please remember where the signs are posted and remove them after a reasonable amount of time. Thank You!

THE MADERA FAMILY

We moved to Crescent Hills in December 1995 and fell in love with the beautiful homes, trees, woods and wonderful neighbors. When we received our first CH newsletter, we knew we wanted to be a part of all the events, activities and projects others were taking on. In 2002, I joined up with a couple other CH friends to make a neighborhood cookbook that featured many of our homes' front entrances which, as you drive around, will see are unique. This was a good opportunity to get to know our neighbors, and we knew this was a great place to start a family! 27 years later, we now have 3 daughters, Alana (22), Ashley (20) and Myla (16). The neighborhood vibe is very motivating here, and we are fortunate to have so many caring and energetic people. Every time we are walking, there are home projects, yard work and outside activities being done by neighbors, which is always very inspiring. Our family helped with the park painting the alphabet worm, tricycle road, and other games in the court area, and were so inspired with the many kids who have been able to enjoy this, that we wanted to do a neighborhood entrance makeover at the Earlwood/Saltsburg corner bus shelter. The shelter is now cleaned and painted, and a new curb and gravel completes the area for a nice welcome for each of us as we enter the special place, we call home.



Marland, Julie, Alana, Ashley and Myla Madera.

FRIDAY FAMILY FUN NIGHTS AND PARK EVENTS: JUNE - OCTOBER, 2022

The Crescent Hills Civic Association sponsored many great events this year! Early in the year a survey was sent out, and those who responded asked for more park events and live music. We listened and we responded! Thank you to everyone who participated!



If you want to find out about events in the future, we need your email! Please email susanchik@comcast.net with your email address. Also, please find Crescent Hills Civic Association on Facebook, and like/follow it for all posted activities/pictures. This year we had:

- June 3: Game night at the park
- July 1: Ice Cream social and water balloons - the kids had a blast! Thank you to Pam Woods and John Kratsas for the supplies and ice cream!
- August 19: Movie night in the park with free popcorn. Thank you to Marty Choma who made it happen!
- September 2: Music night with Joe West, our new neighborhood musician! Thank you for the sweet music, Joe! We also featured the Pappy and Willy guitar/banjo duo's fantastic sound!
- October 2: Fall Wine and Cheese Gathering
- Saturdays in the Summer- Reading/Crafts in the Park for children. Thank you to Lauren Javen who led the sessions.

You own the park- why don't you come out to enjoy what it offers?



PARK TIDBITS (Jan Kukucka)

This autumn, contractors will be doing the bigger jobs in the Crescent Hills Park:

In mid-October, the Sanner Arborists from Somerset County will be removing 4-6 decaying trees and pruning several others. This is not a glamorous (or cheap!) job, but one that's necessary to keep the park safe and useable.

The Gregg Johns Company that cuts the park grass will be removing leaves from the park and from the Glenfield/Earwood thruway. They recycle the leaves by placing them over the park hillsides. Neighbors are asked not to dispose of their own leaves in the park as there just isn't enough room for all this natural debris to decay adequately.

Although "pro's" seem to be doing the bigger jobs this fall, some residents have helped maintain the park's appearance by tending garden spots, picking up after themselves (and their dogs!) and keeping the courts useable by repainting lines and clearing debris. Thanks to Bob MacBeth of Garlow Drive who donated his time and materials used in making new "dog bag" boxes.

During fall and winter months, residents are encouraged to use the park during daylight hours, weather-permitting. Use caution when snow falls, as there's no plans to remove snow from parking lot and walking trail. No one is to be on park grounds or have a vehicle in the lot after dusk, even though the lot-to-street chain will not be closed during those months.

CHCA DIRECTORY 2023

We last published a directory in 2018. It is time to update this treasured booklet. We will begin this process by finding volunteers to compare the records of Allegheny County's property portal with our masterlist of names and addresses. Depending on the number of homes on a street, we will need one or more volunteers for each street. If you are interested in helping us update the directory, please respond to me at algetsy@verizon.net. You can do this job in your spare time and at your computer. When the directories are finished next spring, they will be distributed to CHCA members.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS – FALL 2022

We extend our sympathy to Jeff Orman and his family on the passing of Nancy this past April. Jeff and Nancy, long-time residents of Earwood Road, attended many CHCA activities and used to help deliver the newsletter.

Congratulations to Caitlin and Joe Huden of Crescent Hills Road on the birth of their daughter, Copper Lily.



This fall, neighbor Ed Blazina received recognition of his work as the transportation writer at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette newspaper.

On August 24 the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation awarded first place to Ed in the Daily Newspaper News Feature for his July 2, 2022 article "the Pandemic Showed that Buses Still Matter".

Ed also received the Professional Keystone Media Award for ongoing news coverage. This was in reference to his articles that followed a five year construction project of the Southern Beltway highway. This series, called "How to build a highway" had previously been recognized in 2018 as an award-winning series by the Pittsburgh chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Congratulations Ed, we are proud of you!

Yoga has concluded for this year and plans are to resume Yoga in the Park next summer. Thank you Tracey Salah for your superb instructions.

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