



Crescent Hills

— Civic Association —

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Letter from the President



**...Fighting Hate...
 ...Teaching Tolerance...
 ...Seeking Justice...**

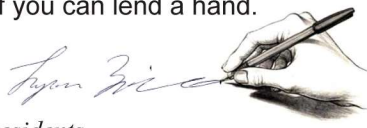
Those are words a remarkable resident emailed me, reminding me that more tolerance and respect of others' views must be part of everyday life. The massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue has shaken us all and it reminds us that we are all neighbors. It happened in a neighboring community. It happened in our greater Pittsburgh neighborhood. I've taken solace in the words of our most famous neighbor, Fred Rogers, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in times of 'disaster,' I remember my mother's words, and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers - so many caring people in this world."

In the face of hate, silence can be dangerous. Apathy can be interpreted as acceptance. Coming together and reaching out strengthens us all. Let's all try to remember to be more caring and to stand up to hate and fear with kindness, love and education.

In CHCA news, I've been voted in to serve as president for another year. New resident, Katlyn Dougherty, has volunteered to take over as the Welcome Committee chairperson. We thank Rosie Perer for all her work and leadership. Katlyn will work with a team of 25 volunteers, who throughout the year will knock on the doors of new residents to welcome them to the neighborhood. Membership numbers keep increasing as do volunteers. We are a vibrant and active association!

The Wine and Cheese Party was a big hit. We got to meet a lot of new residents, some who came from as far away as California and Colorado. Folks who attended brought wine, cheese and other snacks. Hot pretzels and warm cider were provided. It was a pleasant, dry evening and the fire pit on the children's court made the event especially welcoming and cozy. Next year we'll try to have it a little earlier in the season.

Longtime resident Rose Spinelli recently moved away. She and Susan Chikalla took care of the Earlwood bus shelter. Susan takes care of the flower beds and Rose swept and emptied the garbage can each week. Thank you Rose! We wish you well in your new home. We will need someone to take over Rose's job. Please contact me if you can lend a hand.



*Please remember that CHCA meetings are open to all residents.
 Our next meeting is Wed, January 2nd at 6:45 pm in the Penn Hills Library.*



Events Calendar

Events are added and changed all the time. Check our website for the most up to date info!

Sat, Dec 8	Simply Social	Mon, Jan 21	MLK Day Luncheon
Wed, Jan 2	CHCA Meeting	Wed, March 6	CHCA Meeting



Welcome Committee

Our association has a committee of volunteers poised to welcome new neighbors with welcome baskets. You are invited to help this committee by being sure to introduce yourself when you see your new neighbor and learn their names as well. Let our chair know the names and address of our new residents so that we can offer our sincerest welcome. Our new chair is Katlyn Dougherty and you can read more about her and her husband in the following article. Contact her at Katlyndoc8308@gmail.com or 412-573-0428.

Meet Your Neighbors on Crescent Hills Rd.

Eric and I moved into the neighborhood in October 2017 from Lancaster, Pa. We have been married for 10 years and last year we added a third member to our family, Aevy. Aevy is our Husky puppy and she might just be the real Welcome Committee chair! There is a good chance you've seen us walking the neighborhood daily.

Eric is a Software Engineer. In his free time he enjoys playing board games, playing Ice Hockey, rock climbing, and building furniture. I am currently spending my time fixing up our house. I also volunteer as our CHCA Welcome Committee Chair, at the Penn Hills Service Association Food Pantry, and on the Environmental Justice Committee at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. I enjoy rock climbing, dancing, playing with my puppy, and learning about actions and practices to minimize waste and fight climate change.

- Katlyn and Eric Dougherty pictured below with Aevy



Meet Your Neighbors on Earlwood Rd.

Rodney and Rebecca Williams relocated to Pittsburgh from the sunny California coast this summer. Born and raised in California they decided after retiring to move near their daughter Erika and her family.

They will admit that the real draw was not the weather but their twin grandsons and the ability to be in their lives daily. After much online research they made a trip out in late March to check out a couple of neighborhoods they felt were a good fit. One of the first houses they saw on that snowy day was the house on Earlwood Rd. It ended up being the house they had hoped for in a friendly neighborhood close to their daughter.

Before retiring in 2017 Rodney worked as a route salesman for Oroweat Bread. He also enjoyed constantly doing home remodeling and had a tile business on the side. He is loving having a new home to keep him busy. Rebecca retired after working 34 years as a CPA specializing in tax and estate planning. She is enjoying babysitting the twins a couple days a week and spending time with family here and in Ohio.

Rodney and Rebecca have two daughters Brianna and Erika. Brianna is a military spouse and has four daughters and three additional children under guardianship. She lives with her family at Travis AFB.

Erika is an RN at UPMC East and is in grad school at Pitt along with raising twins.

After moving Rebecca's mother out from California they are enjoying their first fall, a new church and looking forward to many new experiences in Pennsylvania.

- Rodney and Rebecca Williams pictured below with their twin grandbabies



Free Ornamental Grass

Anyone looking for ornamental grass for their yard, can have some of mine for free. Now or in Spring.
Call me. Mark Lantz (412) 798-8231 PS They love sun.

Neighbor to Neighbor

We moved to Penn Hills seven years ago, The Getsy's and Kornick's, our tennis friends, introduced us to Crescent Hills where we found a new home with great friends, great neighbors and a great community. Following the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue, many friends have shared their grief with us and have surrounded us with love and friendship.

We could never have imagined such a hate crime could affect us so personally. We lost many dear friends that day, they had guided us, inspired us and enlightened us during our years at Tree of Life. I am sharing my son's words; I hope his words touch you as they have deeply touched my family... - Rosie Perer

"Almost 25 years ago to the day, I had my Bar Mitzvah at Tree of Life synagogue, where the shootings took place yesterday. My childhood was defined by Tree of Life in a lot of ways — I was there at least three times per week for Hebrew school and holidays and celebrations. Whether it was helping my father run the Purim carnival while dressed up as Mordechai or helping to decorate the Sukkah in the courtyard, my childhood and connection to Jewish life was persistent, carefree, and safe at Tree of Life.

These memories of Tree of Life do not mesh with what happened yesterday. Initially, I was unable to process the reality of the event and I only broke down when names of the victims started to disperse last night and this morning. My family and I knew many of them. I had just returned from Germany the night before the attack. That is where we are taught things like this happened. In the past. Not today. Not in Pittsburgh. Not at Tree of Life.

I learned the news of the shootings while in my 2 year old son's bedroom, where we were quietly playing. My wife was sleeping on the other side of our apartment, having worked an overnight ER shift, and we tried our best to let her sleep. The day began with lots of smiles and hugs, as I hadn't spent a morning with my son in a full week since I was away. When concerned messages started appearing on my phone, I sat my son on my lap and turned on Sesame Street, so I could keep it together while I saw the count of victims rise from 4 to 8 to 11. The episode was about Halloween (better known as "pajama day" at my son's Jewish school, at a different synagogue a half mile away from the shooting). The episode was of course a blur amongst the breaking news, but what I do recall was that Elmo kept getting angrier and angrier, but his friends kept calming him down by showing him how to use his imagination. Like Elmo, I will use my imagination of a better world with sensible gun laws and politicians who do not incite hatred, a world where I won't have to worry when I take my son to his Jewish preschool in our synagogue. Until this imagination is realized, I offer my deepest sympathies to all of the victims' families and friends. Especially Joey. Baruch Dayyan Ha'emet. May their memories be a blessing."

- Rosie's son Adam Perer, pictured at right with Rosie, his father and sister

A Moment of Recognition

We would like to recognize a group of women here in Crescent Hills who are volunteering at the Penn Hills Service Association, which is located at 2519 Main Street (Universal Road) in Penn Hills. Those women are Wendy Redington, Rosie Perer, Debbie Digby, Katlyn Dougherty, Chris Miller, and Judy Conroy. Starting over a year ago Crescent Hills' volunteers have been packing and distributing food boxes at the service center to income eligible and registered Penn Hills residents twice a month. The service center also provides free clothing, household and miscellaneous items, and medical equipment to Penn Hills residents most Thursday mornings from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Penn Hills residents can call 412-798-9449 to find out how to register. The CHCA is proud of Crescent Hills volunteers!

Get Well Wishes

We would like to extend get well wishes to Bob Gebhardt of Spring Grove Rd. as well as Jean Meyer of Crescent Hills Rd.

Our Deepest Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to Beni Downing on the loss of her husband Hugh on October 30. The Downings were former residents of Crescent Hills.

To Jim Fields on the loss of his wife Diane. They were former residents of Spring Grove Rd.

To the Sterrett family on the passing of their mother, Mary. Mary was a long time civic association member and resident of Glenfield Drive

For our neighbors in Squirrel Hill and all families involved and affected by the shooting. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with you.

Crescent Hills resident Rick Lorah, Medical Examiner of Allegheny County was quoted, "I've been with the MEs office as a death investigator since graduating from Pitt in 2003. This case, by far is the most heinous in which I've ever been involved. I will say, that although the shooter ended 11 lives he has empowered many, many more. I see it, I hear it and definitely feel it within our community. The outpour of support that has been shared from the victims families, the Jewish community and personal friends/family cannot be overstated. It's why I can and do my job everyday. Love thy neighbor (no exceptions).



Winter

Events

All the Details

Christmas Party

6 pm, Saturday, December 8, 2018

Johnnys Restaurant

112 Washington Ave. Wilmerding, PA 15148

The next Simply Social will take place at 6pm on Sat., Dec. 8th at Johnny's Restaurant in Wilmerding, PA. Their menu can be viewed at johnnysitaliandining.com. Please make a selection from the menu and advise Nick Kornick of your choice so that he can notify the restaurant beforehand.

The room where we will be seated comfortably seats 25 persons so please contact Nick to save your spot.

You may contact Nick at 412-793-2271 or email at linda9335@verizon.net.



Airing on
Dec. 20th!!



Neighbors on JEOPARDY!

Be sure to watch Jeopardy on December 20th as Carrie Blazina, daughter of Crescent Hills' neighbors Jan Kukucka and Ed Blazina, will be a contestant! Carrie is a 2010 PHHS grad who now lives in Boston, where she's a copy editor for the Boston Globe.



Martin Luther King Day Salad Luncheon

For many years, and particularly since 2008, CHCA has held a salad luncheon in January on Martin Luther King Day. Over that time our program has included white elephant sales, an antiques appraiser, a magician, various musicians and guest speakers. This year we have invited a student from Penn Hills High School to talk about his recent trip to Japan. We have also asked our new Municipal Manager, Scott Andrejchak, to attend tell us about his plans for Penn Hills.

The luncheon is an appreciated respite from the cold and snow. It's a great way to mingle with our neighbors, eat some good food, display the arts and crafts of neighbors and friends and maybe win a prize. The luncheon, held at Mt. Hope Church, has always been well attended with former neighbors returning year after year. Many of the same volunteers have been helping with this event since 2008. After ten years of luncheon planning, we are experiencing a decline in the work force, and thought this might be an opportunity to seek some addition workers. Some of the jobs include making centerpieces, decorating the hall, setting tables, setting up the raffle table, cleaning up after lunch, and washing dishes. Please let me know if you can assist with any of these jobs. Help us keep this cherished event going strong. Email me at algetsy@verizon.net or call 412-795-2607. The January newsletter will have more information.