

Municipal Building

The Special Hearing was held on February 15 to a standing room only crowd of residents from many Penn Hills neighborhoods. If you attended, you saw the importance of community conversations.

Members of CHCA again advocated for the municipality to stay at its present location and to renovate the building but the municipality rejected that plan in part because of the limited space at that site. The crowd was civil and the municipal officials responsive. You can see a summary of the meeting in the Tribune Review's February 19 article at:

<http://triblive.com/news/neighborhoods/pennhills/9990137-74/building-municipal-plan>

Municipal Manager Moe Rayan said that in order not to raise taxes, the municipality, for the last three to four years, has been under spending about a million dollars a year. We said that we do not want funds for the building to come from the road repaving budget. If you recall, the municipality's engineers recommended in 2009 that the municipality maintain a yearly budget of \$2.25 million for road resurfacing. The road resurfacing budget has never been at that level but the municipality has slowly increased expenditures from \$200,000 in 2011 to \$1.5 million in 2015. That budget allotment decreased to \$1.2 million this year.

Mayor Sara Kuhn addressed the concern about the possibility of blight on Frankstown Road if the municipal building were abandoned. She hopes to see a town square at that location - one with a gazebo, paths and the current memorials. This would preserve the area for community activities such as the Christmas tree lighting, the parade grandstand and the memorials. Funding for this is not yet in place. It was further suggested by Mark Lantz of Crescent Hills that the newer section of the municipal building be converted to senior housing. Hopefully there will be more discussion on this topic.

Several costs were left out of the initial building estimate including the property acquisition. Mr. Rayan expects to have specific costs and detailed information about the planned complex this spring. We encourage the municipality to hold another town hall meeting when they have that information. Penn Hills Council meets the first and third Mondays of the month at the Penn Hills Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m. The agenda is on the municipal website a week in advance. The public is welcome and opportunities to speak are provided.

- Andrea Getsy, algetsy@verizon.net



Show-Offs Wanted!

Two years ago we staged a tremendously successful Yard & Garden Show in Crescent Hills. Participants had a great time, as did the homeowners who presented their gardens and yards for public viewing. And, of course, it helped to support the work of our Crescent Hills Civic Association.

This year, we'd like to do it again - ideally in mid-July. But we need your help. We are looking for 8-10 Crescent Hills homeowners who love gardening or landscaping and would like to show off their skills, their gardens and their lawns.

Keep in mind that you'll have plenty of time - March to July - to get your landscape into great shape for this event.

More details will be forthcoming, but please let us know now if you'd like to be one of this year's "show-offs." You can email Andrea Getsy @ algetsy@verizon.net or call 412-795-2607 if you're interested.

Crescent Hills Civic Association 2016 Membership Drive

For a mere \$15 per household you can be a member of the longest lasting civic association in Penn Hills. Sign up below. Offer to do something to help. Send your check made out to "Crescent Hills Civic Association" to P.O. Box 17055, Penn Hills Branch, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 or drop off at 184 Spring Grove Rd.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

I want to help!

- Welcome Committee
- Park Committee
- Bus Shelter and Corner Maintenance
- Newsletter Committee
- Newsletter Distribution
- Code Enforcement Committee
- Litter Committee
- Membership Drive
- Strategic Planning

No membership today but I want to be added to directory and emailed about current events. (Fill out section to left but no check included.)



Letter from the President



This new year began with some challenges. The culmination of our petition, in the latter part of 2015 in favor of renovating vs moving the municipal building to Duff Rd., came before the municipality in a short town hall meeting on Jan 15th. Thanks to the more than 100 residents who filled Council Chambers. Many viewpoints were shared. See details in the story on the back.

Our Martin Luther King Day Luncheon presented a challenge, as well, when the heating unit went down. That Monday we went into Plan B, moving upstairs to a smaller, but workable room—with heat and sunshine! Mary Bach, consumer advocate educated us on the PA tax policy and left us with some valuable information.

Nandry Smith brought 30 children's baskets that she had made, along with the help of Kristen Nese. Luncheon attendees then made donations to augment the costs. As a result, we were able to contribute the baskets to Children's Hospital. Thank you to chairs, Cindy & Kevin Van Horn and all of the volunteers who made this day a success. I still have two bowls left from the luncheon: one is a large, Italian bowl, the other a glass like, clear plastic. Please contact me if one of these belongs to you.

We look forward to spring, and the Easter Egg Hunt in the park, March 26; the Simply Social event on April 9 at Shelly Pizza; the annual Plant Sale on May 14; lots of children's activities spring through summer in our park

Please remember that CHCA meetings are open to all residents. Our next meeting is Monday, May 9th at 6:45 pm in the Penn Hills Library

headed up by Nandry Smith & Kristen Nese; and, the grand opening of our park at our Memorial Day Picnic, May 30—complete with a new swing set compliments of an anonymous donor.

I'm sorry to report that some culprits set about to spray paint obscene graffiti on our sports court, so we are looking into solving that problem. If any resident has any information about this, please contact me or Jan Kukucka, Chair of the park committee.

One of our former officers, Donna Frazier and her husband, John will be relocating to Dallas, TX. Shortly after moving here in 2012, Donna organized our first yard tour, then she and John opened their home for a southern style BBQ. Donna started the CHCA webpage and added a paypal option so that members would have an option to pay dues and fees connected with any of our events online. I've come to learn that Donna contributed the fees connected with the website over the last two years, so thank you. We will so miss you both!

Speaking of yard tours we're testing the waters about having another one this year... Since our last newsletter, we have lost some long time residents, and our sincerest sympathies go out to their families.

We have also greeted many new ones. To those new residents, we say, "Welcome!" We hope that the pride that you witness in the longtime members of Crescent Hills, becomes a part of you.

Christine Miller

Events Calendar

Events are added and changed all the time. Check our website www.ch-ca.org for the most up to date info!

Sat, March 26	Easter Egg Hunt	Sat, June 11	Relay For Life
Sat, April 9	Simply Social	Sat, June 25	Road Cleanup
Sat, April 23	Road Cleanup	Sat, Aug 20	Kids' Carnival
Mon, May 9	CHCA Meeting	Sat, Aug 27	Road Cleanup
Sat, May 14	Spring Plant Sale	Mon, Sep 14	CHCA Meeting
Wed, May 25	Storytime in the Park	Sun, Sep 18	Wine and Cheese Party
Mon, May 30	Memorial Day Picnic	Sat, Oct 22	Road Cleanup



www.ch-ca.org | contact@ch-ca.org

Keep Our Neighborhood Beautiful

Hello Neighbors! Here's the latest litter news and dates for the upcoming litter clean-ups.

Mark your calendars for April 23rd, June 25th, August 27th and October 22nd. We meet at our park, on Sycamore Road at 7:45AM. Hope to see everyone there! Please come show your support. This is our community. It's where we live.

Sadly, last year we voted to give up one of our three roads (Saltsburg) due to not enough volunteers. I've received several emails with the same question, "Why so early in the morning?" I realize there are other things one would rather be doing at 7:45 on a Saturday morning. It's just safer at that time with less traffic. You don't have to commit to all four dates. I'd love to see many new faces just once a year. It only takes a couple of hours, and, you get to wear a really cool safety vest and gloves that the committee will supply!

For more information or to get on the email alert list, contact me, Mel Adams, at chcalitter@gmail.com. Keep our neighborhood beautiful!

Keep Our Park Beautiful

There will be signs posted at the entrances of Crescent Hills if a park cleanup day is needed in April or May. Neighborhood volunteer help is often needed to clear out winter debris, and a clean park is a safer park!

There will be additional news and a lineup of spring/summer park events included in that edition. In the meantime, if someone needs park rental information, contact Heather Romanelli listed on the front of the newsletter.

The May newsletter will include a request for park donations - please keep this in mind as neighborhood donations are the main source of income for your CH community park. Please consider being generous as donations will be needed for maintenance/landscaping/new equipment projects at YOUR neighborhood-owned park!

- Jan Kukucka

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 26, 2016
10:00 AM

The Crescent Hills Park annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at the park (141 Sycamore Drive) on Easter Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 10:00 AM. Neighborhood children, 12 and under, are invited to this free event to play games, gather plastic eggs and receive a treat bag from the Easter Bunny. Any neighbor who would be willing to help with "setup," contact Jan at 412-793-2074.



Bringing Smiles to Children

Hooray, for a project completed! Nandry Smith and Kristen Nese of Earlwood Rd put together fun, book-themed gift baskets for children of all different ages. This past MLK luncheon, the CHCA auctioned these off at cost for donation to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. February 6th, a total of 29 baskets and some monetary gifts were donated to the hospital in order to brighten the lives of children who are forced to be in the hospital over special holidays. Thank you again to ALL who participated in making this happen!



Our Civic Association would like to express our deepest sympathy to neighbors, families, and friends who have recently lost loved ones.

Our sympathy to the family of Shirley Leonard, longtime resident of Earlwood Rd and a former CHCA president from 1957-1958. Fred Harman, on the loss of his wife Millie, who was also a past president of the Civic Association. For those wishing to send a card, Fred's address is 3121 State Hill Rd., Pat. 39, Wyomissing, PA. 19610. Ted and Jackie Batt on the loss of their daughter-in-law Molly Batt, whose charismatic personality will not soon be forgotten. John Brown of Springdale Rd. on the loss of his wife Ida Brown.

Last moments and memories:
From son Bob on mother Millie: A Mennonite nurse who had cared for Millie several days as she battled pneumonia asked, "So honey, how are we doing?" And Mom replied, "I'm doing a little too well. I'm trying to die here!"
No fear, absolutely confident. She had us in stitches. The doctor said in 20 years of doctoring he had never seen anything like it.



Simply Social Pizza Party!

Saturday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m.

Come join your neighbors for a casual evening of good conversation and great pizza at Shelly Pie Pizza in Turtle Creek. We have reserved their party room where we will enjoy Shelly's delicious pizzas (made by Shelly herself!), salad, appetizer platter, and soft drinks, coffee or tea. This is a BYOB restaurant and we are welcome to take our own beer and wine. The cost is \$20.00 a person, payable in advance. Call Norm or Mary Beth Phillips at 412-794-1143 or email marybethphillips@comcast.net no later than March 31st if you are planning to attend this event. Because the restaurant has a minimum food cost requirement for their party room, we must have at least 27 people to keep the cost at \$20.00. If we do not have at least 27 reservations by April 1 the event will be cancelled. Please make checks payable to Norman Phillips, 166 Spring Grove Road. See you at Shelly Pie Pizza, 912 Penn Avenue, Turtle Creek, 15145 (in the old VFW building).

NEW! Playground for Our Children

Thanks to a generous anonymous donation made by a Crescent Hills' resident, whose child spent many wonderful years utilizing our park, the CHCA has been able to purchase some new playground equipment. The new swingset that was purchased from the Snyder Company will be installed sometime in April. (The park committee is awaiting guidelines and a date from the company). At installation time, we'll need neighborhood volunteers to help with taking out the old set and installing the new one in concrete. Please consider volunteering two hours on a Saturday to this project. We're hoping to have a ribbon-cutting ceremony and opening festivities celebrating the new swingset at the Memorial Day Picnic! If interested in helping set up, contact Jan at 412-793-2074. More details to come!



Relay For Life - June 11, 2016

The Relay for Life, which is a national effort to raise funds to fight cancer, will be in Penn Hills again, at the senior high school on June 11. The event lasts from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. There are booths set up around the football track where folks walk. The booths have raffle baskets, games and food. There are entertainment and family activities throughout the day. Jim and I have chaired this effort for CHCA since 2009. Then we raised about \$900 in a two day event. Last year we raised \$1,654 in one day. This is a significant contribution on behalf of our organization. This year we cannot chair the event as we will not be in town. If anyone would be willing to take charge, we would be glad to help with the organizing. We sold dog biscuits and conducted games for children at our booth. While we can have an on-line fund raiser, unless someone sets up a table on CHCA's behalf, we will miss all the folks who came to the event and walked for our team. Last year we had 29 walkers. This is a loss to the Relay event. Please step up and help. Contact Andrea Getsy, algetsy@verizon.net or 412-795-2607.



Return of Storytime in the Park!

We had such fun last summer and plan to do it again. A huge thank you goes out to Kristen Nese of Earlwood Rd for her generous donation of art and craft supplies (BOXES FULL) which will go towards this year's Storytime in the Park. Run again by Nandry Smith of Earlwood Rd, with many helping hands, this program will be starting up again May 25th and will run until the end of August. Events include free play at our own park, storytime, music, craft and snacks. Targeted age group is ages 2-5 however older and younger kids are welcome. It is a great way for kids in the neighborhood to meet and form lasting friendships. If interested in being added to the Storytime email list for weekly updates, email nandrysmith@gmail.com.

NEW! Painting in the Park

It was so much fun doing a children's program last summer in the park that we thought it might be fun doing something for the adults this year as well! Keeping in the spirit of creativity, we're contemplating doing a Painting in the Park event for a small fee to cover cost of supplies. If interested in this type of event, email nandrysmith@gmail.com.

