



Crescent Hills

— Civic Association —



Letter from the President

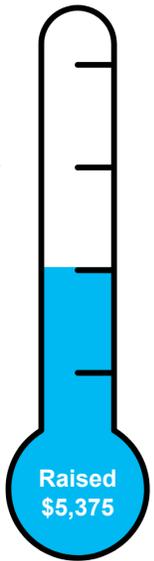
The way too short summer has come to an end. I am sure, however, that many will welcome the cooler air that Fall promises. If you followed us on Facebook and CH-CA.org, you would have seen a lot of activities at the park, the heart of our community. I thank Caitlin Huden of Crescent Hills Rd. and David DeJohn of Verona who hosted Readings in the Park; Tracey Salah of

Sycamore Drive who taught Yoga every Saturday morning; and Bob and Geri MacBeth of Garlow Drive who set up volleyball each Monday evening for the athletes among us. Many of you walk your dog, run, or walk on the gravel path as your children play in the playground. Much community activity occurs there, including the upcoming Fall Fest. Our park is funded by resident donations, but the cost of running the park has become more expensive each year. The rising cost is primarily due to very old and large trees falling apart in storms requiring professional tree services – this year-to-date adding \$3,200 to our budget. Last year, tree removal was \$4,643.

To date we have raised \$5,375. A good and generous amount for sure especially since these donations are from only 20% of the neighborhood. We can do way better than this.

We have been able to pay the bills these last two years because of past generous and extraordinary donations and fund raisers that provided a reserve fund. We have also managed due to the extensive work of Jan Kukucka and Ed Blazina who have maintained the park, without compensation, for these past 20 years. Other devoted volunteers like David Fraser, Judy and Tom Conroy, and Bob Shaner and maybe even you, to mention a few, have saved the park budget many dollars by providing their skilled assistance. We have reached the end of the reserve fund. On a positive note, we are currently planning a Holiday House Tour, which should provide some reserve funds. However, we need more than this.

Goal \$10,775



Even if you do not use the park, its presence, in its immaculate condition, has increased your property values. Real estate agents say they have waiting lists for folks wanting to buy in Crescent Hills. If you have not donated to the park yet this year, please do so. If you've never contributed, consider doing so now. If you want to increase your contribution, that is welcome also. Remembering the joy it has brought to you and your family, consider putting Crescent Hills Park in your will. If you have ideas for raising money and are willing to donate your time, please send an email to CrescentHillsCivicAssociation@gmail.com, subject PARK HELP.

Port-a-potty rental for 8 months	\$856
Grass cutting & leaf removal for year	\$3,310
Liability insurance – ½	\$412
Taxes	\$615
Maintenance (cleaning supplies, powerwashing, paint)	\$1,507
Tree removal	\$3,200
Water	\$75
Limestone dust for trail	\$800
Total expenses 2023	\$10,775

Andria Hetsy

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 9/23 – Fall Fest
- 10/7 – Park Work Day
- 10/14 – Litter Pickup
- 12/8 – Holiday Party
- 12/10 – Holiday House Tour

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

We extend our condolences to Sean McCormick of Spring Grove Road on the death of his father, and to the family of Rich Vignovich, formerly of Glenfield Drive.

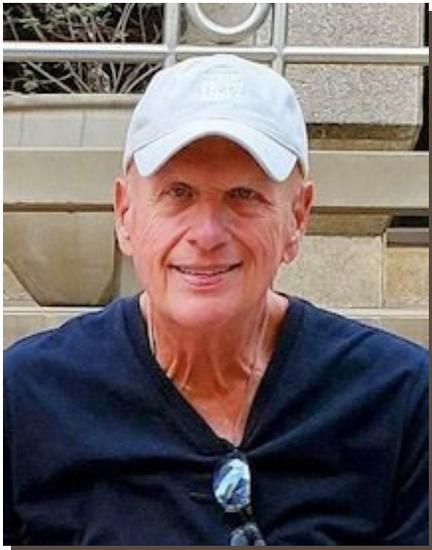
Get well wishes go out to Mimi Marko-Eberle, Spring Grove Road, and to Jean Meyer, Crescent Hills Road.

Crescent Hills Friends and Neighbors are sending many positive thoughts and well wishes to Bridgett Zeibak (Frankstown Road) and her family.

Recognition of Ed Blazina:

In May of 2023, Ed Blazina won a Golden Quill Award for Excellence in Written Journalism for his article "Unpaid PA Turnpike Tolls." He also was part of a team awarded the Society of Professional Journalist's prestigious Sigma Delta Chi national journalism award for their investigation into the collapse of the Fern Hollow Bridge. Ed and other journalists were recognized for their series of articles, "Bridges on the Brink." Ed's team was also recognized by the PA News Media Association with the John V.R. Bull First Amendment Award.

BILL MILLER – GARLOW DRIVE



On April 29 we lost a long-time resident and Civic Association champion with the passing of Bill Miller, husband of past-president Chris Miller. When Bill passed, both he and Chris were residing in Seneca Place -- Chris recovering from a fall and Bill suffering with cancer. He had been fighting that battle for a few years. On many occasions, he was not feeling well from his treatments. But if he had any strength, he would answer the call to help. He delivered plants for the plant sale, he cooked burgers at the Memorial Day Picnic, he worked in the kitchen at the January luncheon. He loved sweets and when he went to the bakery, he would always bring back some to share with his neighbors. He was most happy when he could buy his friends' birthday cakes. Many times I would find him at my front door with pastries in hand. We loved Bill for his generous spirit and cutting wit. We are sorry for your loss Chris. We are sorry for Crescent Hills' loss.

PENN HILLS COMMUNITY CENSUS

A community survey designed by Penn Hills Rising (a collaboration of organizations in Penn Hills including the Penn Hills CDC and the municipality) is presently underway. These organizations want to know what your needs and concerns are regarding your family and Penn Hills. How can they meet your needs and how can they make Penn Hills a safer community? You will find the survey at <https://pennhillsrising.com>.

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO HELP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AS WELL AS YOUR COMMUNITY.

The results of this survey will be used to align residents with existing programs that meet identified needs; to create new programs where necessary, and to seek state and federal funding to support those programs.

You can choose to take the census online right now. If you need help or do not have access to a computer, you can request a Penn Hills Rising team member to come to your home. Call 412-223-7121 or email pennhillsrising@gmail.com. Tell them Crescent Hills Civic Association sent you.

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Grace Edwardo



Crescent Hills Holiday House Tour will be held Sunday December 10 from 1-5pm. Eight homes will be showcased this year and they are all new to the tour! This is a key fundraiser for our community and the proceeds help support neighborhood activities and maintenance of the park throughout the year. Please spread the word to your friends, families, co-workers, and fellow church members. All are welcome to attend! Refreshments will be offered in addition to a bake sale with cookies and treats lovingly created by our own neighbors. We encourage citizens to volunteer by assisting hosts with greeting/guiding guests through the homes, prepping/serving refreshments, and distributing flyers. If you would like to get involved contact the Chair, Grace Edwardo at 724-309-5452 or by email: glkosko@gmail.com.

CORNER GARDEN



It was 5-6 years ago when I was reading the spring newsletter and saw a request for volunteers, one of the positions was for the corner garden at Frankstown and Glenfield. I immediately emailed Lyon and told him Bill and I would take over its care. Living on Earlwood, we passed it a couple times per day and had commented numerous times that it needed a little help. We started off with a good clean up and new mulch.

There were daylilies and a shrub present, but we weren't sure what else was going to grow. Over the past few years, we have removed the shrub, it wasn't doing too well, controlled the daylilies and planted seasonal annuals for color.

I had always wanted to add a welcome sign of some sort and came up with the idea of a welcome flag. I used the Crescent Hills symbol from the web page and designed the flag. It was such a big hit; I was asked to order a couple more for the other corners/bus stops.



This past winter the corner garden took a hard hit when a car ran through it. It tore 75% of the wall down, scattering the stones across the lawn behind it. We had to wait till spring and the ground thawed before we could rebuild. Luckily the stones were all in good shape and it just took a few hours to dig the space and replace the stones.

During our summer maintenance, we received permission to take out an overgrown tree behind the wall. Now the corner is clear and provides better visibility.

Fall planting just took place. We added some red and yellow mums to the still blooming zinnias along with some mulch. Bill did a little clean up along the street and storm drain as well.

We take a lot of pleasure in the beautiful corner garden and when working on it, we always have people stopping to comment and thank us for the upkeep.

Bill & Leslie Skweres

Background on us.... We moved to 124 Earlwood in 2016. Bill is a General Investigator (Detective with Penn Hills Police) and I'm a Nurse Practitioner. We have 2 dogs, Caly & Bo along with a couple chickens.



CODE VIOLATIONS

Grace Edwardo

Code violations come in a variety of forms. Some of them include Tall Grass and Weeds (over 10 inches); Trash and Debris on private property; Insect, Rodent and Mosquito infestations; Substandard and Dangerous Buildings; Illegal Residential Business; Junked or Abandoned Cars on public roadways and private properties; and many others. Our municipality's website has more details regarding code violations. Trash Can Reminder: Garbage should be placed at the curb no earlier than 4pm the day before pickup and containers should be removed from the curb and placed out of view from the street by midnight the day of pickup. To file an anonymous complaint use the link below.

<https://forms.gle/gCh7ABSXJUvFCVQ19>

LITTER

Tim and Rose Mizerak

PennDOT sent us a letter thanking the CHCA for being a participant in the Adopt-A-Highway program for 15 years! They will be updating our sign on Frankstown Rd to recognize this milestone, so be on the lookout! Our last pick up of 2023 will be Saturday 10/14. If you'd like to help, please meet us at the park at 7:45am. We'll ask Penn Hills Police to close Lime Hollow Rd that morning, as we have in the past. To be added to litter pickup e-mails (4x/year) reach out to us at chcalitter@gmail.com. Thank you everyone who has helped clean up litter this year!

CRECENT HILL FALL FEST

JOIN OLD FRIENDS AND NEW NEIGHBORS FOR A FUN GATHERING IN CRESCENT HILLS PARK!



Saturday September 23
(Rain Date Sunday, September 24th)
from 4:00 to 7:30

Our neighbor and musician, Joe West will entertain while we enjoy our favorite beverages, cheese platters and appetizers. Bring your favorite wine or beverage, food to share and your chairs and plan to spend some time mingling with your neighbors. Please email Julie Madera, mjmadera@msn.com or Susan Chikalla, susanchik@comcast.net with questions.

PARK NEWS

Jan Kukucka

The CHCA received \$50,000 in federal stimulus funds through Penn Hills in early March.

While the money has been earmarked to improve the sports court at Crescent Hills Park, potential contractors are evaluating these factors:

- How to improve the rain drainage either with the present drain or the creation of a new system.
- Whether to upgrade the court surface with a new layer of asphalt or by filling cracks and using a special sealer.

The association is also considering:

- Whether to convert half of the space into a pickleball court to take advantage of the popular sport.
- If there is enough money to replace the fence surrounding the court, which has many problems.

These and other variables are still being studied.

While those decisions were being pondered, life in the park went on through spring and summer. Many neighbors used the greenspace for yoga class, a reading program for children, ball games, walking and picnics.

Bob Macbeth, who organizes adult volleyball on Mondays, thanks the “newcomers” who joined the regulars this year. He reminds neighbors that volleyball will continue on Mondays through September, although games will start at 5 pm. instead of 6 p.m.

This season, neighborhood volunteers took many steps to improve the appearance and safety of the park. Those include:

- Pressure-washing the peaceful kingdom (the former basketball court) to make it less slippery.
- Spreading 15 yards of playground mulch to keep play areas safe.
- Stabilizing the merry-go-round (Thank you Bob Shaner).
- Weeding and mulching garden areas.
- Planting deer resistant (!!?) flowers in the gardens.
- Pruning bushes and trees to clear the left side of the walking trail (Thanks, Dave Fraser).

- Removing several trees and limbs damaged by storms/wind/age, some by neighbors and others by professionals.

For the late summer/early fall, several projects remain:

- Painting play equipment.
- Repairing the wooden fence on the left side of the trail.
- Raising the entrance of the parking lot with asphalt and limestone.
- Spreading 14 tons of limestone dust on the walking trail, which is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7. All volunteers are welcome. Please bring a shovel, an iron rake, or a wheelbarrow.

A few other late-season notes:

- The parking lot will continue to have the chain placed across the driveway and locked through November. Even when the chain isn't drawn, remember the park closes at dusk.
- The portable toilet will remain in place until October or November.
- Although we all have leaves and yard debris throughout the fall, please don't dump yours at the park. We have plenty of our own.
- Please continue to use the park with care and respect throughout autumn and winter.



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