



Crescent Hills

— Civic Association —

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Litter
Tim and Rose Mizerak

**Membership/Website/
Facebook**
Lyon Zeibak

Park
Jan Kukuchka

Welcome
Doris Mierwald

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Letter from the President

Ever prescient, Martin Luther King, Jr. once said:

"We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now."

What would Dr. King make of our situation today? Like last year at this time, we are unable to gather in large crowds indoors for fear of spreading a virus, so we must forego our annual luncheon. Luckily, we safely held several activities in 2021, thanks to having a park with plenty of space. We even squeezed in one indoor activity, the Holiday Party at Oakmont Yacht Club attended by 47 residents that went smoothly and safely. It was wonderful to be with friends and neighbors. We look forward to having more of these opportunities in 2022.

As Dr. King counseled:

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

And so we shall!



CHCA Vice President

Moving forward, I am delighted to announce that CHCA now has a Vice President, and it is Susan Chikalla of Hathaway Court. That position has been open since 2014. If we were having our traditional Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Luncheon, we would be properly installing Susan into office. There is an article about Susan and her daughter in this newsletter that she provided at our request. But she probably won't be telling you how happy she made me and the whole board with her acceptance. Susan will bring new leadership, outlook, energy, fresh ideas and loads of talent. Pretend you're at the luncheon and everyone applaud this new addition to CHCA. Susan, I hope you hear that applause. Thank you for accepting the job.



Susan Chikalla and Kayla Boehmig



Susan Chikalla moved to Pittsburgh from Wisconsin after college, and has loved black and gold ever since. The house on Hathaway Court has been her home for 30 years. Susan's daughter, Kayla, works from home in Human Resources.

Since Susan retired from her 34-year Medical Sales career, she is excited about dedicating more time to the Crescent Hills Civic Association. As the new Vice President, she will work alongside Andrea and the board to continue the wonderful traditions of the CHCA. Susan will be looking at you, the great Crescent Hills neighbors, to get involved in projects and activities. If you are interested in sharing your ideas for our beautiful neighborhood, please email Susan at susanchik@comcast.net. She believes strongly in this sentiment by Desmond Tutu, "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together."

Anti-Litter Coloring Contest is Back!



Now here is something Covid cannot deter – an anti-litter coloring contest! The CHCA board has decided to follow Penn Hills Anti-Litter Group's example and focus once again on teaching our children that litter is bad — bad for appearances, bad for property values, bad for the environment, and bad for morale. The Anti-Litter group is sponsoring an essay contest involving Penn Hills High School students. CHCA will bring back the

coloring contest for elementary students. Our Co-Editor, Rob Jones, has graciously offered to draw the coloring page.

With approval of Penn Hills school principals, the contest should happen in early March, followed by an Awards Ceremony at the Penn Hills Library. We hope to supplement this contest with an anti-litter video. Our Past-President Lyon Zeibak will work on that part. The theme for 2022 will be: Penn Hills, a Tree City USA – Keep it clean and green! Watch for information about this project on our website and Facebook page. When the project starts, coloring pages will be available at the schools and Penn Hills Library. Elementary students from K-5 will be eligible. If you want to be a part of this exciting project, please email CH-CA.org or call Andrea Getsy, 412-795-2607 or Susan Chikalla, 412-559-4267

Membership and Park Fund Drive

We had remarkable Membership and Park Fund Drives last year. Membership grew from 89 to 124 Members. More astounding was our Park Fund Drive results. We needed to raise \$5,600. As reported last summer, thanks to a Challenge Fund established by Roberta (Bobbie) Moore, 132



The new Zebra Spring Rider was installed by Ed Blazina and Tom Conroy this November. Thank you again Bob and Mimi Wilson for this generous contribution.

donors plus Bobbie's contribution brought in almost double the goal. We have never had such a response. This outcome has provided a cushion for the park, as expenses are always unpredictable. This past year, park expenses rose to \$8,678, which included the felling of a large tree. Without Bobbie's contribution and the Challenge Fund which brought in a lot of extra donations, we would not have had the ability to pay all the bills. Our goal for this year is to raise \$7,000. The Challenge Fund was conducted only for the month of May 2021 as Bobbie wanted the fund to be used over a two-year period. The goal was to raise awareness among residents of the need to support the park on an annual basis. The park is our treasure. In these Covid times, it is the place to go for respite, to alleviate boredom, to exercise and to socialize.



Bobbie did not live to see the full results of her generosity. Last August, Bobbie passed away. She lived many years in Crescent Hills, first on Garlow Drive and then on Hathaway Court and somewhere in between on Long Island. She was loved by her neighbors for her congeniality and hospitality. She was a Penn State graduate and a nonprofit fundraiser. She helped many organizations with their budgets. Her last big job was for us. Bobbie chaired two of our Holiday House Tours which were, like everything she managed, very successful.

Bobbie learned of the results of the 2021 Challenge Drive and instructed us to use the remaining \$2,800 of her funds for 2022. Following these wishes, and until the funds are depleted, we will add to the Park's balance sheet \$2 for every \$1 donated by residents in 2022. Let us come together and honor Bobbie's memory and example by supporting the park.

Welcome New Residents

In 2021 we welcomed the following new residents:

Crescent Hills Road

Vincent A. Williams

Crestview Drive

Willie J. Brown 3rd

Lashawn M. Wilson

Earlwood Road

Kevin A. Darr and Michelina M. Astle

Conor P. and Gabriela Demers

Kevin Jackson

Garlow Drive

Mary A. King and James J. Morgan

Aziz Thiab

Justin Ketchum and Laura Canal

Glenfield Drive

Edwin and Kathy Lightcap

Kristen Black and Mikyla Tipton

Hathaway Court

Marquisha Robinson and David R. Rivers

Spring Grove Road

Joseph Deely and Darcy Shaffner

Daniel J. and Jessica L. Ciufi

Kristin Conrad and James Daniel McCrory

Eric and Sharlene Perry

Springdale Drive

Kevin R. and Kiersten Kohler

Deborah L. Stevenson and James W. Elkins

Aisha N. Lewis

Gregory Burnham and Sharlene Rosser

Sycamore Drive

Jessica and Omar Boston

David J. Goca

Joseph M. Balestria

Trash Talk

As the holiday season draws to a close, you may find yourself buried in piles of used batteries. Toys, remotes, and even some Christmas decorations use batteries – and after they've outlived their usefulness you may be wondering how best to dispose of them. We want to help!

First, it is important to note the difference between single-use and rechargeable batteries. Single-use batteries (also called alkaline) are the traditional, inexpensive battery you may be most familiar with. According to earth911.com, the use of mercury in alkaline batteries was banned in 1996 which makes them less harmful in landfills than rechargeables.

However, the components in alkaline batteries CAN be recycled and dropping them off at a recycling center is more sustainable than dumping them in a landfill! Unfortunately, there are few locations that recycle alkaline batteries free of charge. Construction Junction will accept alkaline at a cost of 25 cents per battery (batteries must be taped on each end to reduce fire risk). We also reached out to Batteries + Bulbs in Monroeville and they will recycle your alkaline batteries at a rate of 99 cents per pound.

Rechargeable batteries, often made of components such as Lithium-Ion, are a greater risk if not disposed properly and MUST be recycled! These are the types of batteries you find in mobile devices, such as phones, and can also come in the form of standard sizes, such as AA, though they will be marked as rechargeable. Button cell batteries, such as watch batteries, should also be recycled as they contain mercury.

According to Call2Recycle, a nonprofit program, there are bins located in local stores such as Home Depot, Lowe's, and Staples that will accept rechargeable batteries for free! However, if you want to save yourself a trip and drop off all your batteries at once, Batteries + Bulbs will also accept rechargeable batteries at a rate of approximately 30 cents per pound.

Bonus tip: Batteries + Bulbs told us they will also recycle your old bulbs for 30-50 cents per pound depending on the type of bulb.

Thank you for keeping hazardous materials out of our landfills!

Tim Mizerak – Litter Committee



Crescent Hills Champions

It has come to our attention that the leaders of two Penn Hills nonprofit organizations live in Crescent Hills.

Jared Delio, President of Penn Hills Rotary, lives on Glenfield Drive. He recently reported to his membership that despite these difficult times, the Penn Hills Rotary has managed to increase both its presence and impact in the community. This club has helped feed countless families in need, brought holiday joy to many area children, gave future community leaders a helping hand through its annual scholarship program, as well as holding a car cruise, Octoberfest, and "Ugly Sweater" bingo games and assisting with holiday light up night. Volunteers of the Rotary were also seen distributing pizza to our first responders. Find out more about the Penn Hills Rotary by visiting their Facebook page or their website at: <http://www.pennhillsrotary.org>



Lyon Zeibak (Center right), being handed his new gavel

Past CHCA President and resident, Lyon Zeibak, has been elected Worshipful Master (President) of Infinity Lodge No. 546 Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania. Their building, the Penn Hills Masonic Center, is on Saltsburg Road, right on the Crescent Hills border.

Although primarily a fraternal social order dedicated to "Making Good Men Better," bettering mankind and the world around them drives the masons. Nationally, the Freemasons raise and donate approximately \$2 million per day to charity. This money funds everything from medical research to education at burn hospitals, eye surgeries, dental procedures, speech and language therapy and much more to those in need.

Locally, the Penn Hills Freemasons, Infinity Lodge No. 546, supports 3 area food banks, an annual Penn Hills High School scholarship, and several veterans' organizations. Recent donations were to the Penn Hills Monument Fund and a service project funding tree planting in the Alcoma neighborhood through the Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission. The red benches throughout Turner-Friendship Park were donated and built by the lodge. The lodge started in 1876 and moved to the Penn Hills Masonic Center when it was built in 1964. They have over 600 members from all professions and walks of life. For more information: www.InfinityFreemasons.com



We are proud of these leaders. A past president of Penn Hills Rotary is Karen Lantz. She and her husband Mark of Springdale Drive have been the guiding force for the Rotary for many years.

If you know of other residents who are community leaders, please let us know.

Code Enforcement

As we enter January, snowfall and accumulation over the next few months is a good possibility!

Residents of Crescent Hills can assist Public Works during snow events in the following ways:

- 1 Please park vehicles in driveways whenever possible so that plows can efficiently move through the neighborhood.
- 2 Please do not shovel, blow or plow snow into the street. Public Works requests that residents pile snow in their yards.

"Out with the old and in with the new" may also be a resolution for some residents in the neighborhood. Weekly trash collection does not include electronics such as televisions, computers, monitors or other items designated as "E-waste". These items require a scheduled pick-up. Any requests for E-waste removal can be made by calling Republic Services at (877) 788-9400.

Yoga



Yoga is still happening every Wednesday at Mt. Hope Church, from 9 to 10 a.m. Free! All are welcome. Plenty of room to safely distance. Mats are all you need to attend. If interested, contact Andrea Getsy, 412-795-2607.