



Crescent Hills
— Civic Association —

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Letter from the President

Our plea for support for the 2021 Park Fund Drive did not fall on deaf ears. I am excited to report that to date we have raised \$5,300 of the \$5,600 needed for the annual budget. I have been a member of CHCA for decades and I am unaware

of our ever raising so much money in such a short time. To all of you who so generously responded to this drive, all the CHCA Board and Park Committee members thank you. Some residents even signed up to help at the park, and that is just as rewarding. The more volunteers the easier the load (think gravel spreading, painting and weed pulling).

We received donations from 105 residents and former residents. This represents 1/6 of the neighborhood supporting the park. For the park to remain sustainable over the years, more residents will need to participate. While we are clearly close to our financial goal, bringing the donor goal to at least 1/3 of the 600-home neighborhood would accomplish that.

Towards this end, one of our neighbors, who asked to be anonymous, has established a Challenge Fund covering a two-year period of fundraising. For the remainder of this 2021 fund drive, and lasting until the end of May, the challenge will be to raise the number of donors contributing to the park. We thank the folks who have already generously donated, and we direct our appeal to new donors (those not having contributed to date and those who have never contributed).

The Challenge Fund

For each dollar contributed we will receive \$2 from our challenger! In other words:

- \$10 becomes \$30**
- \$25 becomes \$75**
- \$50 becomes \$150**
- \$100 becomes \$300 and so on!**

To qualify for the matching funds, we need to receive your gift by May 31, 2021. Make Challenge Fund donations payable to CHCA and mail to CHCA, P.O. Box 17055, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 or donate at CH-CA.org.

Next year's Challenge Fund will start in January 2022 and be applicable to all contributions. Tell me you are not amazed by this generosity! While we will clearly go over our financial goal for this year, the excess funds will be used to provide a reserve fund to draw upon for future emergencies (tree issues, equipment damage, fence repair, etc.)

Thank you, Crescent Hills residents, and especially thank you, Challenge Donor.

See the enclosed Voter Guide assembled by Lyon Zeibak. Lyon has taken on the important task of keeping voters informed about local elections. A lot of information in a very small space has been provided by the candidates. For larger print and easier reading, go to CH-CA.org. Thank you, Lyon, for this valuable information.

Events Calendar

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

April 24	Litter & Park Cleanups	May 18	Election Day
May 1	Reading in the Park	May 31	Memorial Day
	Beginning of Challenge Fund Drive	June 7	Volley Ball
May 8	Redbud planting and plant order deadline	June 12	Yard Sale
May 15	Plant Sale delivery	Sept. 6	Labor Day



Plant Sale

Due to the success of last year's prepay and delivery plant sale, we are repeating that Covid model for 2021, except the orders will not be placed online. An order form with pricing information is included in this newsletter for that purpose. We can only deliver to streets within Crescent Hills.

Our plants come from the local Bridge's Greenhouse in Plum. The plants are strong and healthy and locally grown. We will again be selling the popular Tumbling Tom patio tomatoes and the Citrosa plant, which repels mosquitos. While we are not offering impatiens this year due to a poor crop, we have added five additional plants. The flowers and vegetables come by packs, flats, individual pots and hanging baskets. Each flat contains 8 packs of either 32 or 48 plants. The colored flier of the plants is nice to see but expensive to print so you will only find the flier on the CH-CA.org website in the Spring 2021 newsletter. The flier indicates which plants prefer sun or shade and which "may be" deer resistant, but only the deer know this for sure.

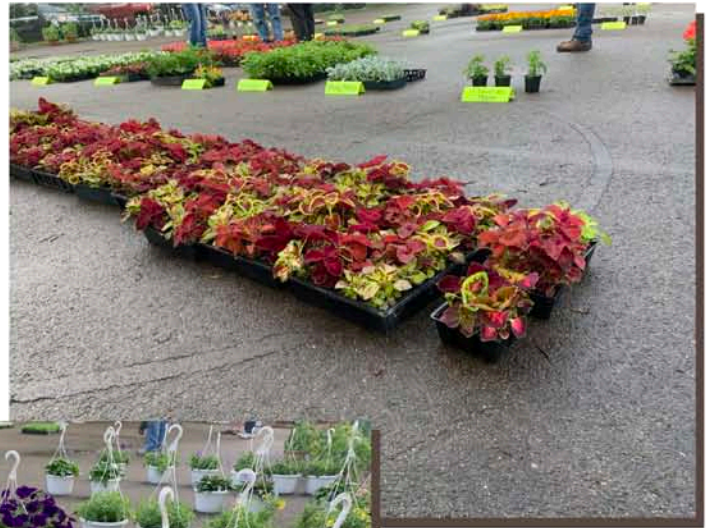
You will receive your plants by or before Saturday, May 15, depending on whether that Saturday is a rain-free day. As we get closer to the date, we will contact all folks who have placed orders to confirm the day of the front-yard delivery. Orders must be received by May 8 and paid for in advance.

Send your check made payable to **CHCA, P.O. Box 17055, Pittsburgh, PA 15235** or pay at the **CH-CA.org website Donation Tab – Plant Sale**.

If you have a pickup truck or spacious trunk and want to help with deliveries or help unloading the vendor's truck, please call Andrea Getsy, 412-795-2607, or email algetsy@verizon.net. Some of last year's volunteers are not available this year and we would appreciate additional help.

No Memorial Day Picnic

Sad to report but Covid is still around and it is still not advisable to gather in large groups this summer. So we must put off the Memorial Day Picnic. BUT maybe by Labor Day we can gather. This could be a combined neighborhood picnic and "New Resident" welcome event. Pencil in the picnic on your calendar and stay tuned for more information later this summer.



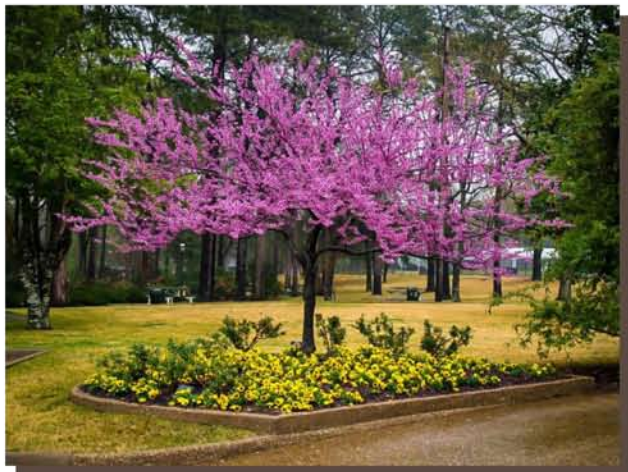
Meet the Editors

In response to our last newsletter's appeal for a Newsletter Editor, new Spring Grove Rd. resident Megan McDonald accepted the challenge. She will be assisted by her husband, Rob Jones, who is a graphic artist. (Are we lucky or what?) We asked Megan and Rob to tell us a little about themselves. Thank you both for volunteering.

Megan and Rob moved to Pittsburgh in 2019 after living in Sarasota, Florida, for many years. Rob, an illustrator, grew up in Plum and had wanted to move back to the area for years, and Megan, a journalist, was up for an adventure. They bought their home on Spring Grove Road last May—right at the beginning of the pandemic!—and have enjoyed getting to know the neighborhood and the people who live here over the past year. They have two rescue dogs, Rambo and Sophie, who are equally happy to be here.



Tree Planting – May 8, 2021 Crescent Hills Park



Redbud Tree

On May 8, 10:00 a.m., the Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission will plant a Redbud Tree in our park. In time, that tree should look like the above picture, without the pictured landscaping. Later this summer, perhaps at the above-mentioned Labor Day Picnic, we will dedicate that tree in the memory of Marion Decker, the first president of Crescent Hills Civic Association (then known as Crescent Hills Women's Club). We are doing this at the request of another generous and anonymous donor to our park. This tree will be planted near the outside left corner of the sports court. Later in the year and before fall, we will plant two more Redbud trees opposite the first but inside the field. Our park will be even more beautiful than it already is. You are welcome to attend the May 8 planting and learn the proper way to plant a tree.

Park - Dumping Incident

A dumping incident occurred at the park on April 15 and the actions of the perpetrator were caught on our recently installed cameras. Police were called and we were able to produce the pictures of the activity. The person who dumped their bicycles in our park will receive a citation. We will provide additional evidence if needed. Penn Hills amended its dumping ordinance in 2019 to allow for fines up to \$2,000 plus cleanup costs. Our municipal manager was quoted at the time that "[D]umping invites litter which poisons our community and encourages blight." We agree with that sentiment and will do whatever it takes to stop the vandalism to our park.



Park Notes - Jan Kukucka

Crescent Hills Park welcomes residents to use the grounds this season for playing, walking and just enjoying the green space!

Neighbors are encouraged to follow county guidelines for outdoor activities (less than 40 people at this time).

The park is not rented for picnics/parties due to limitations in space, parking, noise levels and clean-up abilities.

Expected park improvements this summer

Replace: playground mulch, parking lot limestone and toddler area riding spring-toy.

Repair: fort step rungs and fence near bench and walking trail.

Expected park events

April 24 – Saturday, 11:00 a.m.: Park cleanup and playground mulch-laying. If other cleanups are needed, the dates will be conveyed by email, signs or website/Facebook.

May 1 through July 31 – Saturdays at 11:a.m.: Reading/craft program for young children. To pre-register, visit CHCA Facebook page

May 8 – Saturday at 10:00 a.m.: Tree-planting demonstration by the Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission. Bring the kids and learn how to properly plant a tree.

June 7 through August – Mondays, 6:00 p.m. until dusk: Bob and Geri MacBeth will once again coordinate the teen/adult neighborhood volleyball at Crescent Hills Park. If you are interested in being placed on a "text-reminder" list you can text your name and number to Geri at 412-370-5347. (TEXT ONLY, please.)

End of August: Possible Labor Day picnic depending on volunteer availability and Covid restrictions.

CH Park Reminders

- ▶ No park or lot use after dark
- ▶ No fireworks in the park, not even "sparklers".
- ▶ Dogs must be leashed; clean up after your dog. Bag containers and garbage cans are at each end of the park.
- ▶ Call 911 if you see illegal activities, fighting or equipment being damaged. It's safer not to correct offenders yourself.
- ▶ Port-a-John (located near end of parking lot) is serviced every week by the Pittsburgh Potty Company (For "nature calls," not "garbage hauls!") Do not put trash in the Port-a-John.

Thanks to all who use the Crescent Hills Park with care and respect!

Good News for Penn Hills' Seniors!

The Penn Hills Senior Services Center's monthly newsletter, Senior Scenes, reported that the Senior Center is not closing and will not be sold. The state and county directed the Center to cut back on services in March 2020 because of COVID-19. When the state and county gives Penn Hills the green light, the Center will be re-opening. The Senior Scenes monthly newsletters can be found on the Penn Hills website at <https://pennhills.org/senior-services>.

CRESCENT HILLS SPRING LITTER CLEAN UP

Saturday, April 24 | Meet 7:45 | Crescent Hills Park

We will be cleaning Lime Hollow Rd. LIME HOLLOW WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8:00-10:00 AM for the safety of our workers. Penn Hills Manager Scott Andrejchak obtained permission from Penn Dot for this closure. Thank you Mr. Andrejchak, thank you Penn Hills and thank you PennDOT. Please come join us to help keep Penn Hills litter free. I hope to see some new faces.

Please mark your calendars for the following 2021 Litter Clean-ups: June 26, August 21 and October 16. I hope we continue to have more neighbors join the group.

Storytime in the Park 2021 Coming Soon!

Lauren Javens, LaurenJavens@gmail.com

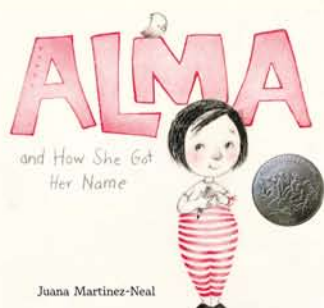
Storytime in the Park is back starting May 1 with a few changes, and we can't wait!

- Spots will still be limited to 10 families and sign up is required, as are masks. Hand sanitizer will be provided.
- Crescent Hills' residents will have first priority until Tuesday of each week to sign up. Any remaining spots will open up to the public starting on Wednesdays.
- We will start reading promptly at 11am. Many kids enjoyed playing before the story, so come as early as you'd like. Bring lunch and stay as late as you'd like while enjoying the park.
- Each of the 10 families gets a copy of the book to keep and we have some fun crafts lined up, compliments of Crescent Hills Civic Association.
- Storytime will run May 1, 2021 through July 31, 2021 for a total of 14 weeks.

If you have any questions, please email or message me, Lauren Javens, LaurenJavens@gmail.com, 412-609-5953

Our first book will be **Alma, and How She Got Her Name** by Juana Martinez-Neal. We will make glitter glue name signs and make our name with S crabble letters (while supplies last).

I hope to see you there!



Yard Sale – Saturday, June 12

There has been interest in having a Yard Sale this year, especially since we weren't able to have one last year. The Yard Sale has traditionally been held the second Saturday in June and is usually well-attended by the community. CHCA will place ads in the Penn Hills Progress, the Pennysaver and on Facebook that a neighborhood-wide Yard Sale will occur in Crescent Hills on June 12th. There is no need to sign up if you want to participate, just have your sale items out by 9:00 on the morning of the sale.



A Good Friend and Neighbor – Mary Lois Verrilla

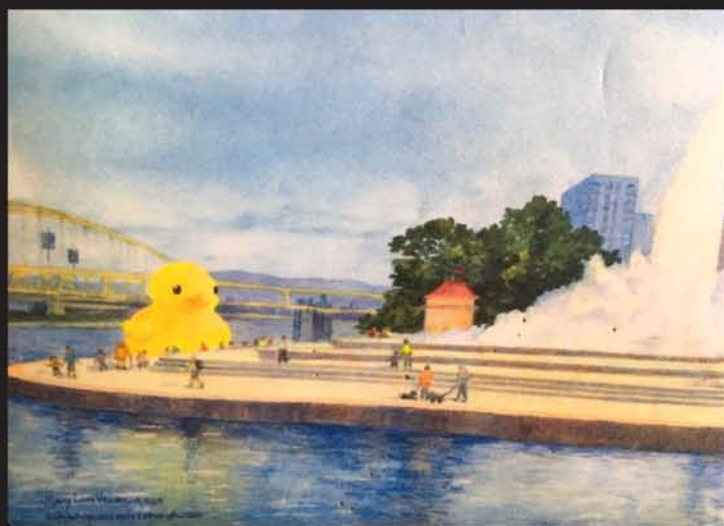
Our long-time neighbor and famous artist, Mary Lois Verrilla passed away this February. Mary Lois was a beloved friend and supporter of Crescent Hills Civic Association, as well as many

other Pittsburgh institutions and organizations. Mary Lois' watercolors of Pittsburgh landmarks, such as the Kaufmann clock, as well as other cityscapes can be found in places around the country. Her original paintings reside in many CEO offices in Pittsburgh.

We are proud that the "Lady Who Paints Pittsburgh" chose to live in Crescent Hills.

For many years, Mary Lois donated prints of her artwork to CHCA to raffle at our yearly luncheon, and those tickets were best sellers. I am honored to own two of her prints and bought others to give as gifts. To see some of her paintings, Google "Mary Lois Verrilla Paintings" to see barges, streetcars, cityscapes, and some of her holiday cards. To read more about her, see this interview that was published in the *Post-Gazette* in 2015. <https://www.post-gazette.com/ae/art-architecture/2015/12/04/Meet-Mary-Lois-Verrilla-The-Lady-Who-Paints-Pittsburgh/stories/201512040059>.

We will miss the lovely lady who painted this whimsical Pittsburgh event.



CHCA PLANT SALE – May 2021

Photos are from the internet, not the nursery, and are provided to assist the buyer.

SUN PLANTS

Bidens



Bridal Veil



Supertunias



Calibrachoa (Million Bells)



New Guinea Impatiens



Geraniums



Dahlias



Ageratum with Marigolds*



Drought resistant

Petunias incl. Wave Petunias



Zinnias*



Bacopa



Dusty Miller



Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds

Container plant

Drought resistant

Vinca*



Celosia



Polka Dot Plant*



Inca Marigolds*



Allysum*



Flowering Maple



Dianthus Perennial*



Border plant attracts pollinators

Osteospermum*



Scaveola*



SHADE OR PARTIAL SHADE

Streptacarpella (False Violets)



Sweet Potato Vine



Full sun to partial shade

Coleus*



Dark Leaf Begonias*



Green Leaf Begonias*



Trailing Tuberous Begonia



Pansy Mix



Likes cool weather and more sun than shade.

*Plants marked with an asterisk are deer resistant. To be on the safe side, however, you may want to remind the deer of this.

CHCA PLANT SALE ORDER FORM - MAY 2021

Name:	Phone:
Address:	Email:

6 plants/pack – 48 plants/flat		Price / pack - \$2.50	Price / flat - \$17	Total Price
Plant Type	Color	No. of packs	No. of Flats	
Pansy	Maxum Mix			
Petunias	White			
	Purple			
	Mix			
Marigolds	Yellow			
	Flame			
	Mix			
Vinca	White			
	Purple			
	Apricot			
	Mix			
Ageratum	Blue			
Dusty Miller	Silver			
Alyssum	White			
Celosia	Mixed			
Coleus	Mixed			
Zinnias, dwarf	Mixed			
4 plants/pack – 32 plants/flat		Price/pack - \$2.50	Price/flat - \$17	Total Price
Plant Type	Color	No. of packs	No. of Flats	
Dahlias, dwarf	Mixed			
Inca Marigolds 12-14"	Yellow			
Begonias – Green Leaf	Red			
	Pink			
	White			
Begonias – Dark Leaf	Red			
	Pink			
	White			
Polka-Dot Plant	White			
	Pink			
10-Inch Hanging Baskets		No.	Price - \$16	Total Price
New Guinea Impatiens	White			
	Purple			
	Orange			
	Pink			
Bridal Veil	White			
Calibrachoa	Purple			
	Yellow			
Begonia – Trailing Tuberous	Orange			
Supertunias	Pink			
	Purple			
Streptacarpella (False Violets)	Purple			
12-Inch Hanging Basket		No.	Price - \$19	
Patio tomato – Tumbling Tom				

Name: _____

4-1/2 inch Pots		No.	Price - \$4.00	Total Price
Bidens	Yellow			
Bacopa	White			
Dianthus, perennial	Red			
	Purple			
	White			
Flowering Maple				
New Guinea Impatiens	Orange			
	White			
	Pink			
	Purple			
Osteospermum	Orange			
	Lilac			
	Yellow			
	Red			
Scaveola	White			
	Blue			
Sweet Potato Vine	Lite Green			
	Black			
	Rusty Rose			
	Tri-color			
Wave Petunias	Purple			
* (Good in containers too)	Pink			
	White			
Tomatoes	Primo Red			
	Mt. Fresh			
	Grape tomatoes			
Parsley				
Peppers	Vidi			
	Hungarian Hot			
Sweet Basil				
Geraniums	Red		\$4.50	
	Salmon			
	Violet			
	White Splash			
Citrosa (Mosquito Repellant)	6-1/2" pot		\$6.50	

Payment Method: Pay Pal Check via Mail TOTAL \$ _____

Payment and orders must be received by May 8, 2020. Pay with Pay Pal at www.ch-ca.org and return completed form to algetsy@verizon.net. If paying by check, make check payable to CHCA and mail to Crescent Hills Civic Association, Box 17055, Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Checks and orders can also be dropped off at 151 Crescent Hills Rd. If you have questions, email algetsy@verizon.net or call Andrea Getsy, 412-795-2607. Your order will be delivered during the week of May 10, 2020. We will inform you of exact day of delivery.

Thank you for your order.