



Crescent Hills
Civic Association



Letter from the President

There are people who live up to the idea they are part of something bigger than themselves. Andrea Getsy is one of those people. Andrea has given more of her time and energy to Crescent Hills than you can imagine. As I attempt to fill her large footprints, I recognize that together, with you, my neighbors and volunteers, we can accomplish great deeds.

Our CHCA goals remain the same as always:

- to maintain our beautiful park
- to encourage volunteerism for our neighborhood activities
- to make Crescent Hills a great place to live

CHCA recently learned that our park has been slated to receive stimulus funds from the Covid-19 Recovery Fund. Penn Hills Municipality received funding and, at this time, an unknown portion is to go to parks. The portion CH receives is already slated for tennis court repairs. Your park and membership funds are still necessary for day-to-day operations. Thank you for your contributions. We are fortunate to have an active and vital civic association, and a beautiful park to call our own!

I look forward to many wonderful activities in 2023 with Crescent Hills neighbors. The MLK Day Salad Luncheon is back on Monday, January 16. Hope to see you there!

Happy and Healthy New Year,
Susan Chikalla

CHCA Winter/Spring Calendar

- 1/16 – MLK Day Salad Luncheon
- 2/3 – Rotary’s Valentine’s Day Bingo
- 2/7 – Special Election
- 4/1 – First Litter Pickup of the Year
- 4/8 – Easter Egg Hunt in the Park
- 5/20 – Plant Sale

Important Special Election

A Special Election to fill the seat vacated by the death of longtime incumbent State Representative Tony DeLuca will be held on February 7th. The candidates are Joe McAndrew as the Democrat and Clayton Walker as the Republican. No third party is on the ballot. Everyone who voted by mail in the last election should get a ballot automatically mailed to them.

VOPP Trail Connector

Is a local trail connection project that will connect Verona, Oakmont, Penn Hills and Plum communities in the Allegheny River Valley. You are invited to join the VOPP Trail Committee on January 19th, 6:30 at Steel City Rowing, 101 Arch St., Verona, to discuss Phase I of the connection.



Joe McAndrew



Clayton Walker

Crescent Hills Civic Association 2023 Martin Luther King Day Salad Luncheon



Admission: Bring a Salad for eight and \$5.00
We'll provide the Entertainment, Raffle Baskets, Soup, Beverages and Dessert!

When: Monday, January 16, 2023-Noon to 3:00 p.m. (doors open at 11:30)

Where: Mt. Hope Community Church, 12106 Frankstown Rd.

Speaker: Gary Rogers from the Oakmont Historical Society

Topic: The History of Allegheny River Boulevard
Gary is the founder and president of the Oakmont Historical Society. He also serves on the board of directors at the Dr. Thomas Kerr Museum in Oakmont. His area of interest is the history of Oakmont, Verona, Penn Hills & Plum. He will speak on the interesting history of the Allegheny River Boulevard.

Please join us as we continue our traditional salad luncheon. We will enjoy soup, salads, dessert, a great speaker, and raffles! Let us know if you need a babysitter (\$5/child). Please bring a neighbor and enjoy a community celebration! It will be a wonderful place to be on a cold day in January.

Contact Susan Chikalla if you have a donation for the Raffle -thank you. 412-559-4267 or susanchik@comcast.net.

Holiday House Tour

Even though we've barely recovered from the 2022 Holiday Season it's time to think ahead to Christmas 2023. We'd like to bring back the Holiday House Tour in Crescent Hills. I had such a wonderful experience as a guest in the 2019 version that I'd like to participate as a host this coming year. We are looking for other volunteers to join in and make this another successful year fundraising for our wonderful neighborhood. It may seem too soon to contemplate but there is a lot of planning involved. If you would like your house to be on the tour or be a general volunteer, please contact me, Grace Edwardo or Mary Colaianne.

Grace: glkosko@gmail.com; Mary: mrcolaianne123@verizon.net

A Well-Lived Life of Service



On November 27, 2022 Crescent Hills lost one of its own. Nicholas Theofilis, died on the job, driving a Penn Hills EMS Ambulance, when his vehicle was struck in a horrible accident.

Nick was an exceptional young man who grew up on Crescent Hills Road. A 2017 graduate of Penn Hills High School he was a member of the Naval ROTC. He started his EMT training in high school and finished with the rank of Paramedic. He served as a Paramedic for both Penn Hills and White Oak, and was a volunteer firefighter for Rosedale Fire Department No. 222 in Penn Hills. He was a boy scout, and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. He was a Certified Lifeguard, CPR Instructor and was a Freemason, a member of Infinity Lodge No. 546 in Penn Hills.

Nick had a large presence, a great heart and was always willing to help. He was fun to be around but was also mature way beyond his years. He loved his community and was constantly overcommitted in all the service activities he could handle. He died a hero, on the job serving his community. He was our hero and we will miss him dearly.

His funeral was a fitting tribute to the young man who exemplified service over self. Pittsburgh's Bishop David A. Zubik was among those who eulogized Nick, along with Mayor Pauline Calabrese. Every corner of our district and beyond was blocked off for the funeral motorcade which had seemingly every form of emergency vehicle in the area rolling down. People came out of their homes, businesses and out of their cars to pay their respects and many saluted each and every vehicle.

A Penn Hills Ambulance served as the hearse and what started as a gloomy, rainy day ended with the majestic fluffy clouds parting to frame the sun shining a bright sunset orange over the Mt Hope Cemetery gravesite. A somber last dispatch call was sent out for Nick over loudspeaker. It ended with a helicopter flyover and a 21 gun salute. It has been said by many that "To know Nick was to love Nick." We love you Nick Theofilis. The entire community of Crescent Hills sends our deepest sympathy to Nick's parents and brother, Pete, Lori and Max Theofilis of Crescent Hills Road, and to his grandmothers, extended family, friends and colleagues.

Carnivores Sports bar in Oakmont added a Memorial plaque to the counter where Nick often sat. There will be a "A Nite for Nick" there on Friday, Jan 27th at 6PM, 215 Allegheny Ave. in Oakmont, PA. Please come out and celebrate his life. Nick would have been turning 24 on Jan 26th. 20% of food and alcohol sales and all raffle basket proceeds will go to his family.

Holiday Dinner Party

The 2022 Christmas party was held on December 9th at the Oakmont Yacht Club. Fifty-two CHCA members and guests enjoyed greeting one another over cocktails followed by a delicious buffet style dinner complete with cake and a beautiful assortment of cookies. VP Susan Chikalla presented President Andrea Getsy with a handmade charcuterie board, and characterized Andrea's leadership of CHCA as a building process putting neighbors and ideas together to create something enjoyed by everyone in the community. Entertainment was provided by Earlwood Road resident Joe West, who played his guitar perfectly to compliment the Christmas setting. It was a great night to wrap up a busy year for CHCA. Bring on 2023!



Park Report/News

Most of our work done in the park from Spring through Fall of 2022 was to improve safety and usage in the park:

- kids court was power washed to reduce slippery surface
- 10 yards of playground mulch were spread
- new dog bag boxes were placed
- 4 yards of garden mulch were placed
- garden annuals were planted
- 6 decaying trees along with other dangerous branches were removed.

The park is an asset to our community! It provides a place where we residents can play sports, have picnics and socialize. Having the park in our neighborhood improves the value of Crescent Hills homes, even if the house is located several streets away from it and even if the owner doesn't use the park. But even with volunteer help, it costs a lot to maintain! These are examples of 2022 expenses:

- Portapotty rental: \$856
- grass-cutting and leaf-gathering: \$3,310
- taxes: \$615
- liability insurance: \$412
- tree removal of decaying trees: \$4,650
- playground and garden mulch: \$400

So, even if no trees were removed, the Crescent Hills Park still needs \$5,600 minimum in donations to function yearly.

There is a strong possibility that Crescent Hills Park will be one of the recipients of "stimulus funds" (from the municipality that came from the federal government) given out in the next few months. Those funds can only be used toward new equipment or major improvement products. If it is awarded to the park, it would be used to repave the sports court and create drainage of that court. This money is not allowed to be used for maintenance.

Many of the Crescent Hills neighbors see volunteers like me raking, spreading mulch, tending gardens and picking up debris on a daily basis. But we need to hire people like landscapers, tree removers and sanitation companies to do the more complicated work. This is a one-and-one-half-acre site that many people use, so it costs more to "keep up" than a homeowner's yard does.

Our neighborhood depends on residents like you to donate at least \$40 to the park towards these maintenance expenses of \$5,600.

Won't you help?

Jan Kukucka, Park Chairman

Neighborhood News

We extend our condolences to Doug Reigner, whose father passed away on December 8, and to the family and friends of former neighbor, Wally McAtamney, who passed away on October 22.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS-29 New families moved into Crescent Hills in 2022

Welcome new neighbors! We are so happy that you have chosen Crescent Hills to be your new home. Our civic Association has been in existence for 88 years and has helped develop the wonderful spirit of community throughout our neighborhood. Our welcoming committee is once again out and meeting our new neighbors with a nice bag of goodies and also includes our directory of neighbors and a little information about our area, and ways to get involved. There are so many ways to be a part of the Crescent Hills Civic Association, and we want you to join our mission to keep our neighborhood strong with volunteering and social opportunities throughout the year. Please visit our website, CH-CA.org, and our Facebook page. I am stepping in for Doris Mierwald, who has been our wonderful welcoming committee chair for many years, even working through the pandemic reaching out. I am hoping to meet each of our new neighbors at our annual January luncheon. Please help me to reach out to our new friends as they move in. If you see a home that has new occupants, call and I will deliver one of our new "WELCOME TO CH" goody bags and we can together let them know all the events and amenities our fabulous community has to offer. Please call or email me with any new neighbor updates. I can't wait to hear from you!!
Julie Madera 412-491-7225, Mjmadera@msn.com

Crescent Hills Road

Jeffrey Flagg and Nicole Navolio
Tara Beth Parnell & Renee J Jennings
Carrie Louise Wilmer
Anne Yeaw

Earlwood Road

Mikala Chezney Douglas & William Michael Stanik
Amanda Johnson

Frankstown Road

Ty'iesha Plowden & Jordan Stash

Garlow Drive

Monique Caldwell
Elizabeth Amy Sweeny & Patrick Sweeny

Glenfield Drive

Lance Johnson
Michael Kelley
Rose Lamoureux & James Dimunno
Arnold Mason
George R. & Nicita M. Moses
Kyle & Maddie Smith
Aaron Watt Sr & Damita Watt
Amanda Wild

Hathaway Court

Anneke Jo Elmhirst

McCurdy Drive

Bryan & Angela Crockett

Spring Grove Road

Chasity Clem and Kristy Lumsden
Erika Portis
Alexander & Jubilee Skopp
Dylan R Baughman & Jordon S Stash

Springdale Drive

Thorn Anthony & Kristen Catlin
Asa William Ford
Robert B & Barbara B Gordon
Sara Green
Esther Adedara & Abiola Odeyemi

Sycamore Drive

Felix A Suarez Delgado & Maritas Miras

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