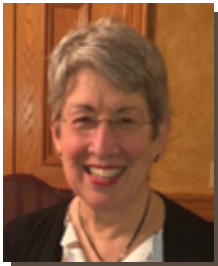




Crescent Hills
— Civic Association —



Letter from the President

We are neighbors you and I. We might not have met yet or we may have known each other for the 57 years Jim and I have lived here. If you did not already know, we live in a neighborhood once voted as the best place to live in the eastern suburbs. I believe it still is. We are the best because

through the civic association we look out for each other, we communicate, we socialize, and we take care of our properties, and that includes our park. Its pristine condition increases our property values. Maybe you have not visited the park—but you should. It's a place of peace and beauty. The park has been cared for by the residents who volunteer and donate to it. But the real care has come from Jan Kukucka and Ed Blazina. You know them.



They live next door to the park; you may have them seen pulling weeds, leading work parties, and draining the water off the tennis courts for the 20 years they have lived there.

In this newsletter, you will read Jan Kukucka's article about the project we are about to start regarding that flooding problem. It has taken 1-1/2 years to finally have an engineer's plan and an experienced contractor's bid in our hands. Jan has worked for many hours tracking down potential contractors, leaving unreturned phone calls and emails, examining and questioning bids and plans, meeting and explaining complicated drawings and bids. To say it has been a herculean effort is not an exaggeration. She has been diligent about this effort because



8 inches under water 16 hours after the rain

she and Ed have been clearing the water off this court and cleaning the drainage system for 20 years. It is time to fix this. We rejected the idea of removing the tennis court as it is still enjoyed by many tennis players and street hockey kids and is still in relatively good condition. But the cost of this job will use every penny in our stimulus account. We expect in the end to not have a water problem. We will, however, not have a new surface. That part of the job will have to depend on the pursuit and receipt of future grants and your continued support.

One way you can help is by attending the Fall Fest fundraising event on Saturday, Sept. 14 (Rain date Sept. 15). A flier has been distributed to 600 homes. We will have items to raffle and a 50/50 raffle also. All proceeds will go to the park.

Another way to contribute is to help with the event itself. We need workers to serve food and set up tables. See my email address on the back page to offer help. Remember Crescent Hills is still the best place to live, and we are in this together. Please come to the dinner, bring your family, bring your new neighbor. Place your order and prepay so we know how much food to prepare. Don't forget to bring a chair to enjoy the music by Joe West.

Andria Getsy

Welcome New Neighbors!

We have had 8 families move into our neighborhood in the last few months. If you see a new neighbor moving in, please welcome them and introduce them to our Crescent Hills community. We have a beautiful park, seasonal events, and many ways to meet new friends and be a part of our civic association. When a new neighbor moves in, please call me, Julie Madera, at 412-491-7225 so I can be sure they are given welcome bags filled with goodies and important information.

Congratulations to Megan McDonald

Spring Grove Road resident and journalist Megan McDonald won a national "Best Feature" award from the City & Regional Magazine Association for an article about mental health, psychedelics, and her husband Rob's journey to finding relief for his major depressive disorder. "I'm so proud of Rob for his bravery in sharing what he went through and completely gobsmacked that the piece has resonated the way it has," Megan says. If you'd like to read it, go to sarasotamagazine.com/ketamine.

If you or someone you know is going through something similar, please don't hesitate to reach out to Megan or Rob, (megan@meganmcdonaldconsulting.com or robjonesart@gmail.com) who are happy to share their experiences. You're not alone!

Welcome Baby Boy Helbling!

Congratulations to Dan and Chelsea Helbling of Spring Grove Road who welcomed their son, Daniel Perry (Danny) Helbling, on June 6.

Crescent Hills Civic Association extends condolences to the following:

The family of Donald Kuhn, formerly of Springdale Drive, who passed away on July 15th. Don was the founder of Don Kuhn Auto Body and was married to Sara Jayne, former mayor of Penn Hills, for 64 years.

Mary Colianni of Glenfield Drive and her family on the passing of her brother Jim on June 6th after a long illness.

Ed Blazina and Jan Kukucka of Sycamore Drive and their family on the passing of Ed's brother Thomas (Thomm) Blazina on June 13th.

Dolores Hanna of Earlwood Road and her family on the passing of James on June 18th at the age of 101.

The family of Veronica Johnson, former resident of Crescent Hills Road, on her passing.

Joan Schratz, passed away on July 12 at the age of 92. She and her family are still remembered by their former neighbors on Earlwood Rd., and the neighborhood children are still enjoying the swingset the family donated to our park.

If you hear of noteworthy neighborhood information, please let us know so we can include it in our newsletters.

DIRECTORY

At the time of the Fall Fest, the 2024-2025 Directory will be ready for distribution. We will hand out the directories to all CHCA members attending the Fall Fest and to all new residents who have moved in to Crescent Hills this year. You cannot purchase the directories, but you can join the civic association and get one for free. We will have a table at the Fall Fest for this purpose.

Litter

Thanks to all who helped with the July 27th pickup, including folks joining us for the town-wide clean up and the young members of Cub Scout Pack 817! We collected 34 bags of trash plus a bunch of dumped material including 4 tires, a dozen metal fence posts, and a dozen rolls of carpet. Our last pickup of the year is scheduled for 10/12. Hope to see some of you then!



Membership

The Board is expanding the membership initiative of the Crescent Hills Civic Association (CHCA) from essentially one person to a full committee. The purpose of the committee is to brainstorm ideas and methods that will help increase the number of households that join the CHCA and to develop benefits specifically for those member households. We currently have approximately 100 member households out of the 600 homes that comprise the Crescent Hills neighborhood. These members maintain the bus shelters and the gardens at several entrances, contribute to the park upkeep and park activities, provide activities for all ages throughout the year, print a phone directory, and print and distribute a quarterly newsletter.

If you can spare about 2 hours every 4-6 months and are interested in creating and joining this committee, please contact Jan Yanko at 412-795-8473 or at janyanko@aol.com. I look forward to your input and to working with you.

Calendar of Events

September 9 – Deadline for ordering presale tickets for Fall Fest – Cost \$20

September 14 – Fall Fest at the Park – Walk-ins welcome – Cost \$25

September 15 – Rain Date for Fall Fest

October 8 – CHCA Board Meeting, location to be announced

October 12 – Fall Litter Pick-up

October 21 – Articles for newsletter due

October 30 – Newsletter to residents' doors

November 6 – CHCA General Meeting, Mt. Hope Church, 6:30 pm

December 13 – Holiday Party at Oakmont Yacht Club

Park News

Jan Kukucka

Our park was busy this summer with a children's reading program, adult volleyball, and countless pick-up games and picnics. It will continue to be busy as late summer rolls into fall with the PHHS girls' tennis team practices and the neighborhood soccer and volleyball games.

Seasonal maintenance and occasional improvements in the park are necessary to keep it in good shape for all these activities, and the help we get from neighbors is very much appreciated. Thanks to Bob MacBeth for cleaning and resetting the wood fence along the walking trail. Thanks to Dave Frazier for trimming shrubs and shredding wood throughout the park. Also, thank you to the Trinity Christian students who laid playground and garden mulch in May.

There are some small improvements that will be done in the next few months, including painting equipment and replacing both the canvas cover and a climbing step on the yellow slide climber. Also, the sign pole at the front of the park will be straightened. Two additional improvements must wait until funds are available: replacing decorative garden fencing and replacing the merry-go-round. These projects are usually paid with regular donation funds, but we may have to use some of that money to complete Phase 1 of the tennis court improvement project instead.

Tennis court improvement project, Phase 1, update:

In March 2023, the CHCA received \$50,000 in Stimulus Funds from the government, through the municipality for "sports court improvements." The original intention was to use the money to fill in surface cracks on the court and re-asphalt it in a way that would allow rainwater to drain better than it had been.

We were advised by a Gateway engineer (hired by the CHCA in response to a bidder's suggestions) that this rain runoff issue could only be solved by improving the present drain. He determined that the topography of the court and surrounding land didn't allow for just curving the asphalt to let water drain.

Improving the present drain means inserting a bigger pipe and trough, laying it underneath the court surface and exiting it onto

the field. This would result in a big lake of water on the field. To prevent this, he suggested that a raingarden with absorbent stones and soil be dug in the field to handle the rain runoff.

The cost of Phase 1 (labor, materials, and equipment used) will be \$50,000! This is without resurfacing the rest of the court. The Phase 1 contract will probably be awarded in late September and will take 3-5 days. During that time, the parking lot, upper park and even the walking trail will be closed to the public. You will still be able to walk up the Glenfield steps and use the playground area.

The lowest estimate we have for Phase 2 (resurfacing the rest of the court) is \$29,000. The work would involve using a crack filler and a sports court sealer. The CHCA would apply for a grant to pay for this work, but the funds wouldn't be awarded until spring 2025. Usually a grant is awarded only if the organization shows that it has also raised money for the project on its own. We are going to need a volunteer with grant writing experience to help us with this project. Please reach out to Andrea Getsy at algetsy@verizon.net if you are able to help.

So, neighbors, you will be hearing about fundraising efforts in the months and year to come, and they begin with the Fall Fest dinner in the park on Sept. 14th. It's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and, at the same time, lend your support to complete these park improvements!



CHCA PARK FALL FEST FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14
(Rain date Sept. 15th)

141 Sycamore Drive
4 - 7 p.m.

PULLED PORK DINNER includes:

Pulled pork sandwich Mac n cheese
Baked beans Coleslaw
Cornbread Brownies
Lemonade Water

Music by Joe West
of Earlwood Road

Cost - \$20 a person, \$7.50 for children under 10. Hot dogs also available. Eat here or take home. BYOB

Prepay to be sure to get your meal. Do so by 9/9/24.

Send check to CHCA, P.O. Box 17055, Penn Hills, PA 15235 or drop off payment to
Sheila Frobuccino, Treasurer, 143 Spring Grove Rd.

Limited walk-ins - \$25 a person (while supply lasts) Cash only.

Come support the park while sharing a delicious meal and good music with family, and friends and neighbors. Bring a chair.

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