



Crescent Hills — Civic Association —

OFFICERS

President

Andrea Getsy: 412.795.2607
algetsy@verizon.net

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Recording Secretary

Trisha O'Neill

Corresponding Secretary

Samantha Moik

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Rob Jones**

Assistant Editor

Mary Beth Phillips

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Kratsas**

Litter

Tim and Rose Miserak

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Park

Jan Kukuchka

Welcome

Doris Mierwald

Contact@CH-CA.org



Letter from the President

Our Labor Day Picnic was a success starting with perfect weather. In addition to a nice-sized crowd, three new families attended, one featured in this newsletter. Happy 100th Birthday, Mary Bray! Thank you, Tom Haas, for your beautiful guitar music.

We've moved Yoga in the Park to Yoga at Mt. Hope Church in a wonderfully-heated spacious room on Wednesday mornings. Instructor Tracey Salah of Sycamore Drive is continuing on her mission to improve our flexibility, strengthen our core muscles, cure our back aches and reduce our stress.

Did you know that regular practitioners of yoga get all those benefits? Come join us on Wednesday mornings, 9 to 10 a.m., at Mt. Hope Church. For new residents, that is the classic church on Frankstown Rd. nearest our neighborhood. Enter from the back.

Since a lot of activities and events have returned to normal, we thought we might try to do the same in regard to our holiday party. We have scheduled a space at the Oakmont Yacht Club for our second holiday party at that location. See article about those plans.

Thinking ahead to the January Luncheon, it seems we would have to restructure that in order to have a safe event; i.e., not having folks bring salads, not having a buffet line, and not having a raffle basket display and folks milling about. What may work is everyone being served lunch and having a speaker or entertainment. This would not be our \$2 luncheon but rather each attendee would pay for prepared sandwiches/desserts and tea. Let us know what you think about this idea. You know we get cabin fever by mid-January. Go to CH-CA.org and give us your comments. If you like the idea, we welcome suggestions for any of this, particularly the entertainment part.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Wishes for quick and total healing are sent to our newsletter editor, Megan McDonald. Megan missed a step in her home, fell and broke both feet, and will be confined to home for at least 8 weeks. So sorry Megan (and Rob too)!

We extend our deepest sympathy to Rosemary Perer and her family and friends on the passing of William (Bill) Perer, loving husband, father, grandfather and friend; to the family and friends of Roberta (Bobbie) Moore; and to the family and friends of former Glenfield Drive resident, Jim Hoolahan.

2021 HOLIDAY PARTY



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 6 to 10 p.m. OAKMONT YACHT CLUB

In light of the continuing presence of Covid, we sent out a survey to all the folks on CHCA's email list to gauge the interest in having a holiday party this year. In response, 43 people said they would want to attend. So the party is on! Because it was such a success, we are planning to return to the Oakmont Yacht Club (OYC), 11 Washington Avenue, Oakmont, PA. This club is the oldest inland yacht club in the United States. It is a beautiful white two-story building sitting next to the Allegheny River.

Some features of the club that will help with making this a safe event:

- We will have exclusive use of the second-floor ballroom with our own bar and bartender. Be prepared to climb stairs as the OYC is an historic building and there is no elevator. But the good news is the restrooms are also on the second floor.
- We will seat as few as six at each round table, depending on your preference.
- The ballroom is spacious.
- The caterer's serve the buffet meal to each guest.

Because the CDC recommends mask wearing in mixed groups, we are asking that only vaccinated people attend.

The catering will be provided by Garda's Restaurant located in Ford City. This is the same caterer as last time.

We are also keeping the same menu because it was a hit. The cost is \$40 per person and the price includes two types of appetizers followed by a buffet dinner with the following items:

- ▶ Chicken Piccata (lemon, wine, garlic sauce)
- ▶ Broiled Salmon with creamy dill & horseradish sauce
- ▶ London Broil
- ▶ Pasta Primavera
- ▶ Red skin potatoes with butter & parsley
- ▶ Green Beans Almondine
- ▶ Garden Salad
- ▶ Bread & Roll assortment
- ▶ Cake
- ▶ Coffee & tea

Music: We provide our own using a playlist and sound system. If anyone would like to take responsibility for this activity, please let me know. My music resources are limited. See email and phone below.

Cash bar -- everyone pays for their own drinks. Soft drinks are \$1 each and the alcoholic drinks are very reasonably priced.

There is parking available in the OYC lots and also along the street. No parking in the Greek Church lot or the Riverside Landing lots.

If you are coming, send your check payable to Crescent Hills Civic Association, P.O. Box 17055, Pittsburgh, PA 15235 by December 3. You can also drop your check off at the Getsy house at 151 Crescent Hills Road. Call 412-795-2607 or email algetsy@verizon.net if you have any questions.

Park Notes - Jan Kukucka

Improvements made/to be made:

- In early October, about a dozen neighbors repacked the walking trail with 14 tons of limestone dust. Among the volunteers were Russ Biedrzycki, Ed Blazina, Andrea and Jim Getsy, Tom Shuetz, Grace and Brian Edwards, Tom and Judy Conroy, Samantha Moik and Alex Smedburg. This bi-annual job was made easier by Josiah Leisher and his front-loader.
- Three redbud trees were planted as a memorial/beautifier in the park. Another tree task that was less attractive (but no less important) was the removal of several dead or fallen trees. Neighbors removed some of the smaller branches but a private contractor removed the larger pieces. Another tree near the storage shed will be removed before the end of the year. The contractor also will shred piles of sticks and branches collected from around the park.
- The new spring rider, a cute zebra donated by Mimi and Bob Wilson, will be installed.

While Crescent Hills Park is open year around, there are a few different procedures for the winter:

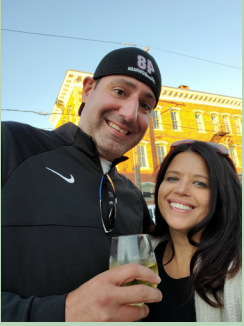
- Leaf removal is done by the grass cutter, Gregg Johns. Leaves are "recycled" on the hillsides around the park but

neighbors are asked not to dump their yard waste in the park because there isn't enough room for all of it to deteriorate properly.

- Tennis and hockey nets will be removed to storage.
- The chain from the parking lot to Sycamore Drive will not be latched from December to April, however there still is no parking or use of the park after dark.
- The portable toilet will be removed at the end of November and will be returned in April.
- There's no snow removal from the parking lot or the walking trail in the winter, so enter at your own risk!



John Kratsas and Pam Woods



John and I moved to 305 Earlwood in November of 2017. I've lived in different areas of Penn Hills since the late 90s, and was really happy to find a beautiful home in the Crescent Hills area.

I moved to Pittsburgh in 1993 to begin graduate school, and John grew up in Fox Chapel.

My career path in science took me into a job at the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office where I've worked as a Forensic scientist for 26 years. John works in a family business started by his grandfather called Amusement Supply Company. He sets up and maintains vending machines, digital jukeboxes and other small entertainment options for businesses in the area.

We spend most of our free time at home with our dogs admiring the beautiful view from our back porch or watching our favorite sporting events and TV shows.

Mary Bray – 100 and Fabulous!

Mary Bray moved to Pittsburgh with her daughter Mary King and son-in-law Jim Morgan at the beginning of the pandemic, then this past February the family moved to Crescent Hills, to the bright blue house at 307 Garlow. Mary loves having lots more room, the birds and other wildlife here, and watching all the dog walkers. She enjoyed meeting some of our neighbors at the Labor Day picnic and was impressed with the welcoming community. She's often at the front window, so give a wave as you go by.

Mary started celebrating her 100th birthday in mid-September by meeting up with 60 of her longtime friends in her North Jersey hometown, followed by time at her beloved Jersey Shore and a week along the Chesapeake and was able to spend time with other dear friends along the way.

Mary celebrated her actual birthday on November 17 with a small gathering at their home. This was the first time since she moved to Pittsburgh that her whole family could be together, including her two grandchildren and two more daughters, one from Nashville and the other from Portland, Maine.

Mary's longevity tips are to keep moving and to enjoy a bit of wine and some ice cream each night!



CODE ENFORCEMENT

Neighborhood maintenance and upkeep is a top priority with the Crescent Hills Civic Association. Crescent Hills is but one part of the larger community of Penn Hills. Setting an example with clean streets and well-maintained homes could potentially inspire our neighbors and those just passing through to do the same.

Code enforcement is one tool that the municipality offers its citizens to obtain building permits or report issues of property neglect.

An easy access web address offers a code enforcement and permitting portal at:

pennhills.org/municipal-code-enforcement-department/

Once the web page opens, you will see the phone contacts for members of the code enforcement department.

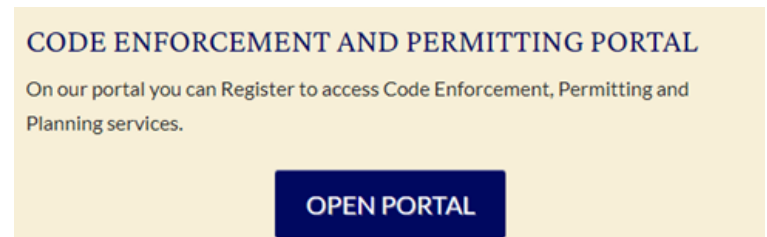
Reporting suspected code issues may be made to the following personnel:

- ▶ John McCafferty – Director at (412) 342-1193
- ▶ P. Jacquie Pierre-Small - Code Enforcement Secretary at (412) 342-1192

This page also includes email links for the above members and documents relating to building permits, occupancy permits, and numerous other items homeowners can access.

A second option to report code issues exists using the web portal.

Step 1. Click the "OPEN PORTAL" box on the webpage then opens a new tab.



Step 2. Click on the box with "APPROVED" to open a map where you can increase the map, and insert address of the property in question.

Code Enforcement Portal

Apply for permits and submit complaints using the Web Apps below. Using the search bar find your address, click on the yellow point and select the code enforcement operation you're looking for.



Step 3. Choose Code Violation from the three options then presented.

Step 4. Complete the complaint form.

This is an anonymous process.

The Mizeraks



Hello neighbors! We are Tim and Rose Mizerak. We have lived on Springdale Drive with our cat Bartleby since 2016 and look forward to taking the lead on litter pickup in our neighborhood. Rose is a “bird nerd” and field assistant for Powdermill Nature Reserve where she tests bird-friendly window glass. In her free time she enjoys knitting, videogames, and tending to her multiple pet snails. Tim has been a data analyst with the University of Pittsburgh for the past 8 years. He enjoys golfing, practicing guitar, and playing piano. We care about our environment and our backyard ecosystem so we hope you will join us next year to keep our streets clean!

Crescent Hills Champions

Sadly, this summer we lost two of CHCA's champions, both of Hathaway Court. Roberta (Bobbie) Moore and William (Bill) Perer died within a month of each other.

We reported Bobbie's passing in our last newsletter, but not the fact that Bobbie was the anonymous Challenge Fund Donor. Her donation, the largest in our history, enabled us to double the park's budget and significantly increase the number of donors.



Bobbie chaired two hugely popular holiday house tours in 2014 and 2019. Those of us on her committee looked forward to each meeting at Bobbie's beautiful home where she, although being from New York, notably displayed Southern hospitality and charm. Bobbie tackled all her projects with passion and joy and it was a delight to be in her presence.

Bobbie's neighbor Sue Beikman remembers Hathaway Court ladies gathering to watch Masterpiece Theater's Downton Abbey series, hosted at times at Bobbie's. Bobbie called the group the Downtonettes. Susan Chikalla also of Hathaway tells about Bobbie's love of her rescue cat Winston who hung out

with Susan's cat Beau. The two ruled the neighborhood. When Bobbie passed after suffering two strokes, her neighbor Nancy Reynolds adopted Winston so the best friends could remain together.



Our other champion, Bill Perer, came with his wife Rosie to Crescent Hills over 10 years ago. They both immediately became active participants in the civic association. Bill became CHCA's cashier for all ticket sales at luncheons, picnics, and other fund raisers. He was enthusiastic about this responsibility, usually first to arrive at the event and always engaging residents as he handled the transactions. By the time of his death, Bill had been battling Parkinson's disease for 30 years. Rosie said that he was considered the “poster child” for the Parkinson's Foundation, showing that the disease could be managed with vigorous exercise. Rosie repeatedly told her friends that Bill was her hero.

Susan Chikalla says that Bill was always happy. Sue Beikman confirmed that Bill did not let Parkinson's get him down. He always had a smile and a twinkle in his eye and would say, “What are you going to do?” Both neighbors described the pleasure he took from feeding the birds and squirrels from his back deck. Susan said that Bill adored his family and that he and Rosie had a beautiful love story that she admired. Bill loved his home on Hathaway Court with the woodsy backyard. Susan observed that he wouldn't have been happier living in a palace and it was apparent that Bill had peace on earth.

Hathaway Court and Crescent Hills have suffered a big loss with their passing. But we shall remember our friends for the times we shared and the blessings their presence brought.