



Crescent Hills

— Civic Association —

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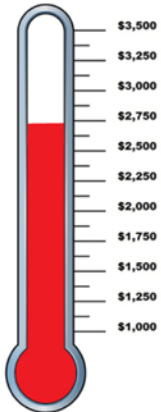
Welcome

Rosie Perer: 412-421-0428
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Letter from the President



GOAL!



I'm pleased to announce that our experiment of having a combined fund drive at the beginning of the year is working! We are making our second request only to those of you who have forgotten to send in their membership and park donations. Our goal for the park fund drive is as always \$3,500. With just one request, we have received 75% of that amount. That is much better than in past years. We thank you for your generosity and willingness to pay two bills at once.

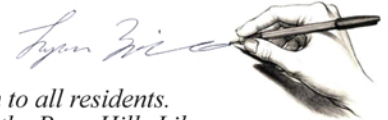
We did however find that we have collected less in CHCA membership fees than usual for this time of the year - so don't burst our bubble! - send in your membership dues now along with your park donation, if you haven't already.

Our next Simply Social will be at the Green Forest Brazilian Churrascaria on Thursday, April 26th at 6pm. We will be sitting near the bar, utilizing separate checks and taking advantage of their bar menu prices and happy hour specials to keep it more affordable for every-

one. If you are interested please email me to let me know contact@ch-ca.org or call (412) 250-7423.



As we are looking ahead to warmer spring and summer months and I think about all the neighborly fellowship we will enjoy in our community I wanted to suggest you consider a Crescent Hills Progressive Dinner Party. A progressive dinner is a dinner party with successive courses prepared and eaten at the residences of different hosts. Usually this involves the consumption of one course at each residence or front/backyard area. Guests would spend a short while at each residence mingling and getting to know their neighbors better before moving on to the next. We could even have unique themes to make it more fun or most courses could simply be light appetizers. The guests would be a mix of new residents and long time residents who are involved in our community. We just need a few more families to volunteer their homes to do it. If you would like to be a part of an event such as this, please contact me.



Please remember that CHCA meetings are open to all residents. Our next meeting is Monday, April 30th at 6:45 pm in the Penn Hills Library.



Events Calendar

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

Sat, April 14	Arbor Day Celebration	Mon, April 30	CHCA Meeting
Sat, April 21	CH Road Litter Cleanup	Sat, May 5	Plant Sale
Sun, April 22	PH Earth Day Cleanup	Mon, May 28	Memorial Day Picnic
Sat, April 26	Simply Social	Late May, TBD	Adult Volleyball in the Park
Sat, April 28	CH Park Cleanup	Wed, June 13	Storytime in the Park Starts



Meet Your Neighbor

SANDY & DIMITRI BACASA celebrate 46 years this June!
Then Now



'There we were in June 1973 ... at last, the moving day! So excited with our 14 month old son, Dimitri Jr., and our toy poodle, Mamselle, to move into our new home. Our home was built in 1939 and the original builder, Howard Gray, came to visit one day to see what we had done. He explained he finished the house in February when he and some of his friends all worked together and built their homes here in the neighborhood. All traded out their different skills, Mr. Gray specializing in stone masonry and cement work. (Thus, the cement driveway which is the original still intact, and my massive stone patio and cut stone walls in the backyard). Many family and friend functions have since been and continue in our wooded backyard.

Our children, Christian, David and Joy Elizabeth, followed our move here in 1976 and 1978. All of our children went through the Penn Hills School system...Forbes Elementary, Linton and Penn Hills High School. Both Christian and Joy received scholarships from the Rotary Club of Penn Hills. All children went on to further their education: Dimitri Jr. at Rosedale Tech and Christian & Joy at Slippery Rock University. Sandy served on PTA board all those years, running the Santa shop at Forbes for 8 years and president of Linton PTA for 3 years. She served as president of our own civic club in 1977-78. Sandy said 'As soon as we moved in, I was recruited for the Social Committee and then chaired same the next year. We used to have big neighborhood dinner dances at the Hospitality Inn (now Comfort Inn) every year.'

Before having children she sang at the cocktail lounge at the Hospitality and many other night spots around town. Also, at one time Penn Hills had an amateur musical group called the Penn Hills Muses. She sang with the Pittsburgh Savoyards and was a special music guest on Channel 40 for 25 years and continues to use her voice in the area.

'There's just nothing like our neighborhood. When we moved in, none of the mothers worked! We used to go to the park on a regular basis and meet up with packed lunches for the children and just enjoy the day. Also, there is an empty lot next to our home and we would put bales of hay at the bottom and the kids would sled ride. Big wheels were so popular back then and our kids and their friends would come over our house and ride forever in circles in the

driveway while we gals sat on lawn chairs, sipping ice tea and watched the joy of our children having so much simple fun. We didn't even have cordless phones yet! And, get this, for the Easter egg hunts, we all boiled and dyed REAL eggs!! Good grief...a lot of work. I also discovered my typing teacher, my English teacher and my Biology teacher lived here in Crescent Hills!! What more could you ask for?'

Married 54 years and 6 grandchildren (3 girls and 3 boys ranging in age from 7 to 19) we are truly blessed and thankful. Living here 46 wonderful years, neighbors are so great and friendly, caring and helpful. Hope all of you have the same positive experience living in this neighborhood as we have. The only thing different now is WE are the older people we used to refer to as our "older neighbors". HAHA

Welcome to Our Neighborhood

A big welcome to Gene and Nathan Perone, Jim Herman, Mellissa Castine, Dennis O'Malley, John Kratsas and Pamela Woods, Crystal and Joshua Muth Louis and Shiela Frobuccino, Ken and Leigh Boyer, Carolyn Desmond, and Eyesha Cobbs! We are so glad you are here and look forward to meeting you at one of our many CHCA functions. If I missed your name, please notify me so we can say hello!
- Rosie Perer

Some Changes in Crescent Hills Park

There will be no park rentals in 2018

There has been a tradition for the last 30+ years that a CH resident could rent the park for parties or picnics. As was mentioned in the fall newsletter (when the community was invited to comment) that tradition has been under review. The park committee has decided that CH park will not be formally rented in 2018. There were many reasons and discussions leading to this decision but it came down to these main two reasons:

1. CH park is a small space in the middle of a residential area. It has restrictions like limited parking, no electricity and no flushing toilets. It is too small to accommodate the size of groups that were renting the facility. The noise, traffic and trash resulting from large picnics have been very disruptive for the neighborhood.
2. Since renters have had exclusive use of the park, it has restricted use by the rest of the neighborhood for the whole day. People couldn't play with their kids or walk the trail on weekends - which is, for many, their only leisure time available.

We welcome the use of our shelter by our residents! The shelter can continue to be used for a small picnic or party without a reservation and without charge. Residents should just know that they won't have exclusive use. They'll share the space with whoever is there walking,

playing or also having a picnic. The usual "ordinance" limitations apply: no parking on the street, keep dogs on a leash, pick up after oneself and keep noise at a minimum.

While this change may force some residents to look elsewhere for a party venue, many more will be free to use the greenspace of the park at a more convenient time for them.

Port-a-John to replace Park Outhouse Use

Another major change in the CH park is that the outhouse will no longer be used. In April, it'll be locked and "boarded up" due to sanitation reasons. There will be a rented port-a-john located (most likely) in the tree grove at the end of the parking lot closest to the field per the rental company's preference.

-Park Committee

The Proposed Penn Hills Town Center and Memorial Park

The municipality has asked for the Civic Association's input as to the Town Center and Memorial Park that is proposed to replace the current municipality building. The municipal plan is to seek grants over a period of three years, each at \$250,000, to demolish the building and replace it with a gazebo, walking paths and landscaping. The architect's rendering makes a beautiful space that we would welcome as the place where a review stand would be assembled and the Memorial Day parade stop. One can imagine that the area could be used for other events and maybe even farmer's markets.

However, recent decisions by the municipality have made it less likely that the area would be a "memorial" park as we understand that all the memorials, not just the police memorials, will be moved to the new building. Perhaps the Christmas tree can still be at this location, however, that would necessitate the provision of electricity. Likewise photos with Santa could not take place outdoors and a heated tent may have to be procured for the event.

The Civic Association still considers the current municipal building to be a classic and historic landmark. We are not opposed to the reuse of the building, especially the newer portion, as apartments or office space. It would benefit the municipality to have such a prime piece of property added to the tax rolls. If it were possible to find a buyer for the newer building, it is imaginable that the older portion of the building could be demolished and then only that smaller area would serve as a community park, with a gazebo and green space.

These comments should not be used to dissuade the municipality from proceeding to apply for grants. However, these comments are made so that other options may also be considered.

- Crescent Hills Civic Association Board

Code Update for Penn Hills

Any resident of PH contemplating the need to store personal belongings outside of their home should understand that there is presently an ordinance that permits the use of PODS. A permit is required in the amount of \$25.00. The max time is 14 days with the ability to request a hardship from code enforcement. All PODS must be located on a hard surface, such as driveway.

Additionally, the municipality is proposing a new ordinance for the use of dumpsters and bagsters. The permit fee proposed is \$25.00 for either. Dumpster will be regulated to a 30 day period and bagsters for 14 days. All permits required start at the PH Code Enforcement office.

Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission

An article on the front page of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette on Wed. Feb. 28, states that the tree canopy in Allegheny County is in an alarming decline. Unfortunately, it specifically mentioned Penn Hills as one of the communities most affected. The Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission (PHSTC) is a newly formed organization, approved by a municipal ordinance, for the planting and preservation of shade trees, the development and promotion of various environmental projects and to promote educational programs and citizen participation, all of which are intended to help reverse our declining tree canopy.

A shaded, tree-lined, residential street is a beautiful image but do you know that trees are environmental workhorses? Trees give us much needed shade on a hot day, create oxygen for us to breathe and absorb atmospheric carbon. Trees absorb huge amounts of stormwater runoff, decreasing the amount of raw sewage that flows from our overloaded sewage system into the Allegheny River. In addition, trees increase our property values, attract residents and businesses to our community and have actually been shown to reduce crime by fostering safer, more sociable neighborhoods.

The PHSTC's first tree planting event occurred in October when we planted 15 trees at Penn Hills Elementary School. On March 11, we hosted a free tree pruning workshop. On Sat April 14 @ 2 pm, we will have a community Arbor Day tree planting in Penn Hills Park. Also this spring, we will be planting 40 trees along a Penn Hills residential street, our first of many Front Yard Tree Projects! Finally, this summer and continuing into next summer, we will be working on restoring Plum Creek in Penn Hills Park by removing the invasive Japanese knotweed and replacing it with native trees and shrubs. We cannot complete these projects without your help! Please check our website, PennHillsSTC.org for times and dates and make plans to join us!

- Kathy Raborn
President, Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission

Spring plant SALE

**SATURDAY, MAY 5TH
9 A.M. – 1 P.M.
Crescent Hills Park**

Be sure to join in on the fun and visit our neighborhood plant sale. We will have a lovely assortment of flowers, vegetables and herbs. We will also have homemade gifts and baked goods and a couple nice items to raffle off! Our annual plant sale would not be a success without our dedicated volunteers. Please plan to help at the sale or make bake goods. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tina Sparano at ptsparano@verizon.net or call 412-793-2529. If you happen to have an abundance of perennials in your garden that you would like to donate to the plant sale, please let Tina know.

Memorial Day Picnic Monday, May 28, 1PM

Bring the family and a dish to the Crescent Hills Park to celebrate Memorial Day with all your neighbors.



Storytime in the Park

Starting up Wed. June 13th
11 am every Wednesday

Celebrate Arbor Day in Penn Hills!



Saturday April 14 at 2 pm
(Rain date Sun April 15 at 2pm)

Penn Hills Park
Sycamore Pavilion

Tree planting, walk, crafts,
snacks for sale, giveaway!

Penn Hills Shade Tree Commission | PennHillsSTC.org

SPRING Events



Time for Spring Cleaning!

Litter Cleanup

Spring is approaching fast and it is time for our annual Spring Clean Up. This will be our 11th year in helping keeping our community litter free on our adopted roads: Frankstown Rd and Lime Hollow Rd. I appreciate your continued support in this effort!

This year we will be coordinating our litter clean up with Penn Hills on Earth Day for a community wide litter pick up. Crescent Hills' Clean Up Day will be on Saturday, April 21. Penn Hills' Community Clean Up Day will be on Sunday, April 22. Check your schedule and join us on one of these days to help make Penn Hills Beautiful. Hope to see you at one of these events!

Sat, April 21, 8 am - Crescent Hills Litter Cleanup Day (Meet at Crescent Hills park. Gloves, bags and safety vests will be provided.)

Sun, April 22, 8 am - Penn Hills Community Cleanup (Meet at Universal Park. See Penn Hills Facebook page.)

Park Clean up

There will be a park clean-up on Sat. April 28, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, weather permitting. Leaf and stick pickup, mulch-laying in the play and garden areas and possibly painting equipment are the tasks we'll be concentrating on. Please come help!

Sat, April 28, 9 am - Crescent Hills Park



Right now, CHCA members, **5% of your purchase will go towards your neighborhood!** Just say you're with CHCA!
(Program will last all year and is good on all sales.)

FINAL REMINDER



PARK FUND & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

CRESCENT HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION **COMBINED** PARK & MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We are making our second request only to those of you who have forgotten to send in their membership and park donations. We have received 75% of our goal. If you haven't already contributed, please do so now and help us reach our goal!

For a mere \$15 per household you can be a member of an active and vital civic association and the oldest in Penn Hills.

At this same time, please also support our park. Annual cost to maintain the park (maintenance, taxes, grass cutting & leaf removal) is **\$3,500**. The park belongs to the Crescent Hills and is run by volunteers. We all benefit from having a community park!

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

No more confusion! We are combining our fund raising efforts to a **once a year** fund drive. Just select which area (or both) you wish for your contribution to go to.

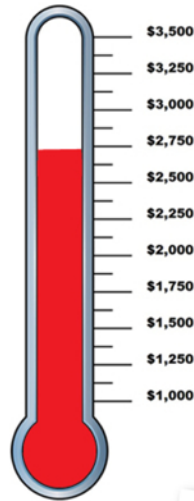
Membership: _____ \$15
Park Donation: _____ \$25; _____ \$35; _____ Other
Total (Membership + Park Donation): _____

Make one check payable to Crescent Hills Civic Association and mail to Crescent Hills Civic Association
P.O. Box 17055, Penn Hills Branch, Pittsburgh, PA 15235.

Thanks for your support!

Lyon Zeibak, President CHCA & Jan Kukucka, Chairperson, Park Committee

GOAL!



I want to help!

- Park Committee
- Welcome Committee
- Bus Shelter and Corner Maintenance
- Newsletter Assembly
- Newsletter Distribution
- Litter Committee

