



Crescent Hills
— Civic Association —



Letter from the President

Maybe I used my head too much while playing volleyball in the park (any body part counts), but I've never felt the potential of Crescent Hills like I have this summer! The Memorial Day picnic kicked things off with a larger crowd than we've had in years. I counted over 80 people at one point. My favorite comment was, "This feels like how it used to be!"

But this is now! We have wonderful neighbors and all it takes to keep this community strong is reaching out to each other. I saw Levi two doors down helping his friend cut up a downed tree. I met Cheyenne and his young son and learned how they'd like to use the park in the years ahead. And I gave pats to the neighborhood dogs, including but not limited to Cooper, Jesse, and Bella. I probably remembered the pup's name before the owner's, sorry about that!

We've seen great turnouts elsewhere, too. Our plant sale generated more income than last year despite undergoing multiple changes. Membership is slowly ticking up, especially via tinyurl.com/chcadonate2025 (though still not feeling 'like it used to be'). Plus, we've had multiple volunteers perk up at the idea of doing another holiday house tour this year! More on that later in the newsletter.

Thank you, activity coordinators and volunteers!

Nothing makes the park come alive in the summer months like our regularly scheduled activities, which are all entirely free and run by volunteers.

- Bob MacBeth and co. for the always fun and well-attended Monday Night Volleyball!
- Tracey Salah for keeping us limber with Thursday Night Yoga!
- Our readers, Caitlin Huden and David DeJohn for keeping our Saturdays crafty and fun with Reading in the Park! You are all a valued part of our community.
- Sylvia Lynch and John Bednarz for providing and maintaining the flowers at Crescent Hills Rd.
- John Bednarz for maintaining the Crescent Hills Rd bus shelter.

Recent developments:

- Social media: Our new Instagram is up to 39 followers and Facebook has added 21 followers to make a total of 706 on social media. We also launched a new website: CrescentHills.org (more on that later) and took ownership of our "business profile" on Google.
- Insurance: We worked with an insurance broker to explore options for insurance. Despite a \$100/yr increase, our current General Liability policy on the park was still the best price available so we renewed it for another three years. The board

also approved a Directors & Officers policy after significant research and again working with a broker. The cost will be offset by reducing expenses elsewhere in our budget (see next bullet point).

Decreased expenses:

- o New grass cutter for park costs less per cut
- o Reducing newsletters back to 3 times per year instead of 4.
- o Adoption of Zeffy for online transactions will save around \$90/yr in fees.
- o Our new website uses a different host which will save over \$100/yr compared to our old plan. The president donated the hosting costs for the 4-year plan upfront, which will save about an extra \$50/yr through 2029.

Grants

- o Our AARP grant application was denied. We plan to apply again next year. We had hoped to get funds to improve the playground and picnic area.
- o We are still waiting to hear about our PA state grant to re-surface the sports court.

Even as summer activities are winding down, that doesn't mean the community-building stops! Please keep a look out for fun events on social media, our website, and possibly the occasional e-mail.

Events Calendar

September – Monday Night Volleyball at 6 pm
10/11 - Litter Pickup (7:45am)
12/13 - Holiday House Tour
12/13 - Holiday Party
1/19/26 - MLK Luncheon

Community News

Deaths: The passing of former Earlwood Road resident Joyce Mench.

Births: Welcome baby Theodore ("Theo"). Son of Lauren Kowalski and Sean Vaksman, brother of Alexander of Crescent Hills Rd.

If you are aware of community news, please let us know!

Neighbors help The Bloop Museum move in!

Expected to open October 2025



Call for Volunteers

The Bloop Museum (moving into the former municipal building on Frankstown Rd) is seeking volunteers and donations. Find them on Facebook/Instagram as @bloopmuseum for up-to-date details or visit bloopmuseum.com to donate.

Litter pickers are always needed! Look for Oscar and join us at the park. We close one of our adopted roads for 2 hours during pickups so our volunteers can safely beautify our community!

Sports Donations

We may be interested in your old sports equipment, particularly anything that can be left outside like a basketball hoop, youth soccer net, or anything else you can think of that may make for added fun at the park! If you have something you think would be a good fit, contact timothymizerak@gmail.com.

Membership

Jan Yanko

2025 Membership stands at 96 households--let's make it 100-strong! It is just \$15 per year and it helps keep all our activities going! You can pay with card or check at tinyurl.com/CHCA donate2025

We still have many 2025 directories. If you haven't received your copy or are not sure whether you paid your dues for the year, please contact me and we'll promptly arrange to fix that. Call me at 412-983-3153 or email janyanko@aol.com.



Holiday House Tour December 13, 2025

Grace Edwardo

We're excited to announce our upcoming Holiday House Tour, scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, and are looking for neighbors who would like to showcase their beautifully decorated homes! Our last tour was a tremendous success — with 9 homes, over 125 attendees, and \$3,800 raised for the park — and we're aiming to make this year's event even bigger and brighter. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your holiday spirit, inspire others with your festive décor, and help make our neighborhood celebration truly special. If you're interested in participating, or know a home that would make a great addition to the tour, please send nominations to Grace Edwardo at glkosko@gmail.com by 9/13 with the address and contact information. We can't wait to show Pittsburgh what Crescent Hills can do!

Holiday Party December 13, 2025

Andrea Getsy

We're excited about the prospect of a house tour, and have decided to have a more informal holiday party that same evening. We hope that after the tour, folks will welcome the opportunity to wind down at the Penn Hebron Garden Club ("The Barn") located on Jefferson Rd. We'll arrange for catering and possibly entertainment and will let you know the time and costs later this year. If you want to help with this planning, please contact me at algetsy@verizon.net. It's always fun to plan a party!



Clothesline

Mount Hope Church
12106 Frankstown Road

Penn Hills

Every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Free parking is available behind the church

The bus stop is at the corner of Frankstown Road and Parkridge Drive by the church

Women's, Men's, Children's, and Baby clothing available in addition to some shoes and accessories

No charge. Bring your own bag or use one of ours.

Litter Report

Jim DiMunno

Our end-of-summer litter collection event, held on July 26th, was nearly rained out; but a few stalwart Litter Warriors showed up nonetheless! With so few participants we put our focus on Lime Hollow Road, and managed to put a good dent in the unsightly detritus that always seems to drift into our neighborhood. We collected a total of two (2) vehicle tires and fifteen (15) bags of miscellaneous litter. We collect it; our partners at PennDOT pick it up, and haul it away. Well done, team! A sincere thank-you to all who showed up! Our next, and final, Crescent Hills neighborhood litter collection for this year will occur on October 11th, 2025. Please put the date on your calendar; and hopefully the weather will be more cooperative. We'd love to see you there if you can make it!

A community-wide litter collection event, sponsored under the auspices of The Rotary Club, that was held this past July 12th. This is a great idea and is intended to be repeated next year. My appreciation to our neighbor, Judy Conroy, for bringing that event to our attention! I will endeavor to find out more about this annual event, try to better coordinate with those organizers, and get word out to you all as soon as it is available.

Additionally, I wanted to inform everyone that an interesting recycling program is being launched that we may want to engage, in which we all get a free park bench out of the deal! Our friends at the Penn Hills Anti-Litter Group on Facebook shared a program being sponsored by the Trex Company (outdoor decking, patio, and furniture materials manufactured from recycled waste plastic) to turn soft plastic waste into a free park bench. Bread bags, produce bags, newspaper sleeves, stretch wrap, bubble wrap, cereal bags, Ziploc bags: all can be collected. The program would accumulate 1000 pounds of this waste, to be then turned over to the Trex Company, who then provides a suitable recycled plastic park bench for our use, free! It's a great way to remove plastic waste from the city's waste stream, keep it out of the landfills, and we receive a benefit for our community. Let me know if you'd like to assist in the project since it will take a team effort to pull it off. (chcalitter@gmail.com)

Code Enforcement

Karen Lantz

540 Springdale Drive, which had a fire in 2024 is now undergoing renovation and will be for sale after completion.
107 Weedon - unauthorized occupant has taken possession of the property. It is now in the hands of the magistrate.
Please inform me of any abandoned cars or items on property in Crescent Hills to be reported and removed, and send any other infractions that you feel need addressed to Karenlantz1@gmail.com

Plant Sale

Grace Edwardo

Thank you to everyone who volunteered or supported our May plant sale! We're happy to share that it was another great success, raising just over \$630. Much of this success is thanks to our wonderful neighbors who generously donated perennials from their own gardens. This year, we also partnered with a new local vendor who provided us with a beautiful selection of plants and flowers — and they were a big hit!

Garden Wall Repair



In late July, the garden wall by our entry sign was damaged by a vehicle. We had the damaged sections repaired plus the top row had to be redone anyway.



Reading in the Park

Andrea Getsy



On August 6, we were treated to a return visit by former resident Nandry Smith, who created our program ten years ago, along with her husband Dustin (aka "The Count") and their four children. She read "We're Different, We're the Same." In addition, Ms. Nan brought monster-themed games and snacks and her neighbors from Hampton Township whose reading program involves moving to a different park each week. Aren't we lucky we can stay put! Civic Association provided pizza, lemonade and water for the worm sprinkler. Together

with our residents, including our Program Reader, Caitlin Huden, and daughters Copper and Cleo (seen in the picture with the Count), there were 30 children and 12 adults in attendance. We can't provide such a party each time, but each Reading in the Park has a great story, crafts, snacks and a wonderful children's playground where the kids can ride their trikes and scooters and make long-time friends. Parents please don't miss the 2026 Reading in the Park Program! If you think moving the program from Saturday to a weekday would make it easier to attend, please let us know and we'll make that a consideration next year.

Thanks to neighbors Julie, Ashley, Alana, and Myla Madera and Dan Unikel all from Earlwood Rd. for refreshing the paint and games on that playground just in time for this wonderful event.

Visit CrescentHills.org

We launched a new website! Many folks felt it was time for refreshment, so when the opportunity was presented to save some money and give the site an overhaul we jumped at the chance!

The new website was largely designed by Tim Mizerak with input and testing from our tech advisory group consisting of Lyon Zeibak, Dennis O'Malley, and Rob Jones (aka the people Tim keeps in the loop so more than one person knows how to do this stuff). The new website still has all the content from the old site with some additions like social media feeds and extra photos. The website gets around 120 visits per month, making it a great place to promote our activities and recruit volunteers. With the new hosting plan, we are saving over \$100/yr. Our old address, ch-ca.org, is still active and will redirect to this new site.



Park News

Janet Kukucka

Our neighborhood is blessed with residents who (despite their own property needs) are willing to share their time and skills to improve CH park. Though rain and uncommonly hot weather delayed attempts, here is a sampling of some spring/summer improvements: Storms in April and May brought down trees and boughs in the park. Neighbors Dave Fraser, Bob MacBeth, Nick Bosco, Ed Blazina and Russ Biedrzycki sprang into action with their chain saws. They cut wood or moved it to areas of the park away from foot traffic, to be dealt with at a more convenient time. Nick Bosco also made free mulch available to the park from Mt. Hope cemetery trees.

- On May 9, CH park benefitted from the volunteer work of 4 Trinity Christian students and their adult supervisor. This group spent hours weeding, cleaning and preparing the playground area for mulching.
- Residents Bob MacBeth, Willis Paul and Dave Fraser created a new fence to border the garden closest to the storage house. This garden area is dedicated to Jim Getsy, who passed away in 2024. Jim suggested this fence border, and he did much of the park landscaping from 2000 to 2024.
- Bob MacBeth and Dave Fraser have also lent their wood-working talents to replace the slats on the benches inside the sports court.
- Bob MacBeth re-lined the tennis side of this court. That area is now being used 3 times a week by the Penn Hills High School girls tennis team for tennis practice.
- The Peaceful Playground (former basketball court) was power-washed by Bob Shaner in June. In August, the Madera family repainted the play diagrams and highway lines.

- Some playground equipment and park benches have been wire brushed and sanded prior to re-painting by Beth and Jan Kukucka and Ed Blazina.
- Park entry was paved by Tresco Companies when Sycamore Dr was redone.

These efforts may look minor, but they represent a lot of heavy lifting, measuring, and balancing paintbrushes and stencils while on knees and ladders! Thank you to all the previously named people who have worked toward these projects.

And CH neighbors: consider "lightening the load" by volunteering to help!

Late summer and fall:

- The rain garden created in Oct. '24 will be re-seeded by the Folino company. While the garden catches water from the sports court and allows it to soak into the pit, the flowers and grass that are supposed to make it look "pretty" didn't grow.
- After that attempt, the fence that was built around the rain garden will be straightened/strengthened.
- The walking trail will have a layer of limestone added to it.
- There will be weekly leaf-gathering and disposal of leaves over the park hillsides by the John Romanelli grasscutters. Residents are discouraged from adding to this difficult task by dumping their own leaves, grass and lawn debris in the park!

Thanks to all who use the CH park with respect and consideration for others.

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