



Crescent Hills
Civic Association



Letter from the President

We hope you and yours had a wonderful holiday season! A new year is here, so let's reflect on our achievements and opportunities for improvement.

Good news! Setting aside the holiday house tour, we raised \$2500 more from dues, park donations, and annual fundraising events

compared to 2024! This was a much needed rebound after a couple years of declining membership. We boosted membership from 90 to 114 and had multiple generous, multi-hundred-dollar donations to the park. There are still gaps which the board is trying to address, but this was a significant move in the right direction for us.

The holiday house tour was a huge success! This is in no small part thanks to your generosity and the tireless efforts of dedicated neighbors. I especially want to thank Grace Edwards, who coordinated both our annual plant sale and brought back the holiday house tour. We now have a modest cushion for any unexpected expenses, not a small thing when tree service alone could cost thousands.

I also set forth some goals last winter. Where did we end up?

- **Boost social media presence:** With 39 new Facebook followers (683 total) and the launch of our Instagram, now with 53 followers, that goal has seen progress. Instagram was especially helpful promoting the holiday house tour as we could cross-promote with other Pittsburgh organizations.
- **Creating buzz with new events:** The house tour was spectacular, and our Memorial Day picnic was one of the better attended events. We also tried new ideas with mixed results. What shared activities do you enjoy? How would you like to meet and get to know your neighbors?
- **Updated fundraising:** The adoption of Zeffy to fulfill online transactions, with 0% fees, has been a game-changer for us. We appreciate that online payments aren't for everyone, and we will offer cash/check options whenever we can, but I can't understate the amount of time it saves us. Please use our Zeffy site when you can.
- **Support our volunteers:** The more folks who get involved, the better we can support each other. Currently, we have two openings for officers, Vice President and Recording Secretary.

Some goal setting for the year ahead.

- **Support local businesses:** We rely so much on local businesses for donations that we want to give back in any way we can. We'll be promoting local businesses in different ways throughout the year. If you'd like your business included or want to recommend a local business, please reach out to us!

- **Membership Value:** CHCA membership supports many positive things in our neighborhood, but it isn't always clear to everyone what it does. Our volunteers deserve to see the organization grow and showcase all they do. I am working on a plan to improve the visibility of our efforts, but here are a few promotional highlights from last year and something new for this year:

- o In 2025, we were featured multiple times in the local news for our 90th anniversary, summer activities, and the holiday house tour.
- o Social media growth led to cross-promotion with other Pittsburgh area pages giving us the opportunity to showcase Crescent Hills to more people.
- o A limited run of affordable yard signs will be offered to CHCA members so everyone knows we are proud of this neighborhood.

- **Engage new and younger neighbors:** We want to lay the groundwork for future engagement by coming up with ways to connect with new and younger neighbors that have a variety of competing interests. This one is hard to quantify, but a few ideas tossed around include:

- o Music at the park
- o Sports day at the park/adult lessons for tennis/pickleball
- o Game nights for grown-ups or families with older kids

It is my hope these goals will bring us closer as a community and keep Crescent Hills a desirable place to live for years to come!

Ready to get to work,

Tim Mizerak
CHCA President

tinyurl.com/chcadonate2026



Calendar of Events

Membership Drive (January-February)
January 19 - Martin Luther King Day Luncheon
March 28 - Litter cleanup
April 4 - Easter Egg Hunt
May 23 - Plant Sale
May 25 - Memorial Day Picnic
June 6 - Litter cleanup
Summer - Reading in the Park, Volleyball, Yoga
August 15 - Litter cleanup
October 17 - Litter cleanup

CHCA Martin Luther King Day 2026 Salad Luncheon



**Monday, January 19, 2026
Noon to 3:00 p.m.
(Doors open at 11:30AM)**

**Mt. Hope Community Church, 12106
Frankstown Rd. (back entrance)**

**Admission: \$5 a person
and a salad to feed eight.**

You provide the salad and we will provide the entertainment, raffle baskets, soup, beverages, rolls, and dessert!

Please join us as we continue this traditional event that brings neighbors together in a community celebration. If you have new neighbors, encourage them to attend. No better way to get to know each other and a wonderful place to be on a cold day in January.

We have invited our State Representative Joe McAndrew who will speak about the \$63,052 grant he and State Senator Jay Costa obtained for Penn Hills specifically for renovations at Crescent Hills Park. This is a dream come true! It would take us about 63 years to come up with that much on our own. At that pace there would be no court to repave. The application for this grant was written by Penn Hills officials and submitted to the State Legislature for consideration. We cannot thank Senator Jay Costa, Rep. Joe McAndrew, and Penn Hills Planning Department enough for their help in obtaining this award. We will learn more about the municipality's plans soon.

Our second speaker will be Brendan Becker, the curator of the new and soon to be opened "The Bloop Museum" presently situated in the former Penn Hills Municipality Building. Bloop is an electronic entertainment museum dedicated to computers, games, media, and gadgets. Brendan, who had such a museum in Baltimore, MD, started his move to Penn Hills this summer after he successfully raised enough money to purchase the long-empty municipal building. The Bloop Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Brendan relocated 25,000 artifacts to get the museum started. It promises to be a hot spot for children, teenagers and families interested in anything computer related and best of all admission will be free. Brendan will tell us his plans, some stories about the building, maybe why the museum is called "Bloop," and when that really cool sign featured in bloopmuseum.org and on Facebook might go up. This event promises to be a lot of fun; and don't forget all those raffle baskets you will have a chance to win!

State Grant for Park Renovations

You may have heard we will be receiving a state grant of \$63,052 for park renovations. The grant is an LSA (Local Share Account) grant awarded for projects in the public interest and was based on our request for funds to resurface the sports court at the park. It will be the CHCA's responsibility to seek bids and follow all grant rules. In short, this is a unique opportunity to make a much needed improvement to an aging but important public benefit provided by our park. It doesn't alleviate our day-to-day expenses, but we would have not been able to raise funds for a project like this on our own. Special thanks to the CHCA park committee and former resident Chris Blackwell for their assistance, as well as Rep. McAndrew and Sen. Costa for advocating for our cause.

\$63,052
to Penn Hills for renovations
at Crescent Hills Park

\$54,170
To Allegheny County for an
intersection improvement
study at Rodi Rd. and
Jefferson Rd. in Penn Hills

REPRESENTATIVE JOE McANDREW
PENNSYLVANIA

Litter Committee

Jim DiMunno, CHCA Litter Chair

I'm certain that everyone is eager to see what "treasures" await us beneath the melting snow, as we contemplate a new season ahead for our annual community litter collections. Our PennDOT Adopt-A-Highway roadways are Lime Hollow Road and the portion of Frankstown Road which runs adjacent to Crescent Hills. We go out on four separate occasions during the Spring/Summer/Fall months and we're hoping that you'll set aside those four Saturday mornings to lend a hand in keeping our community attractive.

All gloves, trash bags, and pickers will be provided; all we'll need is your desire, and a willingness to maybe get a little dirty.

Meet up at the community park on Sycamore Drive on these dates:

- Saturday, 3/28/26, 8am-10am
- Saturday, 6/6/26, 8am-10am
- Saturday, 8/15/26, 8am-10am
- Saturday, 10/17/26, 8am-10am

See you there!

Membership Dues Increase

At the winter board meeting, a strong majority voted to increase membership dues from \$15 to \$20. Numerous reasons for the increase were discussed and included:

- Rising costs, particularly food costs for events
- Volunteers often opt out of reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses to keep funds available for other initiatives
- \$20 is in line with other civic association dues in the region
- An extra \$5 per member household should add around \$500 to the association account (\$5*100+ members). This would balance the account based on the income and expenses for 2025 (noted in the table below), though the impact on park donations will need to be evaluated.

If you have set up recurring payment at the former rate, we will recognize it as valid for membership though we encourage an update to the new amount as it works for you. If you cannot afford the dues but would like to be a member, please reach out to crescenthillscivicassociation@gmail.com so we can accommodate you.

Membership dues help us cover the expenses not related directly to the maintenance of the park. This can include food and materials for events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Day Picnic, and Reading in the Park. It can also be used for supplies needed at bus shelters and neighborhood gardens, as well as major operating expenses like insurance, web hosting, and printing costs.

Calendar Year 2025 Income and Expenses

Association Income (dues, MLK Luncheon, party) \$3810

Association Expenses \$4375

Park Income (*excluding the holiday house tour) (park donations, plant sale) \$8972

Park Expenses \$8515

*House tour raised a little over \$4000 which will help cover repairs and emergency needs at the park.

Membership

Jan Yanko

The Crescent Hills Civic Association is an active community organization involved with updating and maintaining the park and bus shelters, hosting neighborhood activities such as holiday picnics and children's reading sessions, networking with other civic organizations and the municipal services. Our revenue for these activities is mainly dependent on Crescent Hills residents' annual membership dues and park funding.

We are now beginning our membership drive for 2026. Please consider joining/renewing your Crescent Hills Civic Association donations for the year to help continue and expand activities and programs as well as donating to the park. Also, you can share your input regarding current Civic Association activities and suggestions for new activities by contacting any board member listed in the quarterly newsletter.

Checks for both membership fee of \$20 and park donations can be sent to:

Crescent Hills Civic Association P.O. Bo 17055 Pittsburgh, PA 15235
or you can donate using Zeffy at tinyurl.com/CHCADonate2026

Holiday Party

The CHCA Holiday Party was held at "The Barn" and featured a wonderful pasta buffet along with entertainment from accordionist Hank Edwardo and holiday trivia provided by Fredo Productions. 40+ attendees braved the winter storm and had a great time. Shout out to "The Bloopers" for winning trivia!



Welcome Committee

Julie Madera

New neighbors may not be aware of the CHCA, so we request that anyone call or email Julie Madera <mjmadera@msn.com> when you see someone moving in. They will receive a nice bag filled with information on both our community and neighborhood as well as a few kitchen/goodie items. People can request Julie to welcome them, or she can drop off a bag for them to personally deliver. Thank you!

Birth Notice: Congratulations to Wes and Ashley Crosby of Garlow Dr. who welcomed a baby boy at the end of October. Ashley has helped the CHCA identify additional funding opportunities. We are grateful for her help and overjoyed to hear the happy news!

Passing Notice: We sadly report the passing of Ken Bott of Garlow Drive on October 21. Ken was a pianist who performed on the grand piano in restaurants and for his church for many years. Ken taught the piano also. He would attend the January luncheon at noon each year and quietly proceed to provide us with dinner music, helping to make the luncheon a classy event. We will miss that music and miss Ken.

We also sadly report the passing of Larry Choby's wife Pamela Jane Oates Choby of Spring Grove Rd.

A Huge Success: Thank You for Making the Holiday House Tour Special!

Grace Edwardo, photos by Don Palumbo

What a wonderful day it was! Thanks to great weather, fantastic volunteers, and an enthusiastic community, this year's Holiday House Tour was a tremendous success.



We welcomed around 120 attendees who enjoyed touring beautifully decorated homes and sharing in the holiday spirit throughout the neighborhood. With everyone's support, the event raised over \$4,000 to help fund improvements to our community park — a shared space that benefits all Crescent Hills residents.

This year's tour also featured two new homes, which were a big hit and added fresh excitement to this much-loved annual event. Combined with sunny skies and a walkable route, the day offered the perfect opportunity for neighbors to reconnect and for new residents to feel right at home.

We were also proud to see the tour recognized in a lovely Tribune Review article by Bella Markovitz, highlighting the sense of community and teamwork that makes Crescent Hills so special. This event would not have been possible without the generosity and hard work of so many people. A heartfelt thank you goes to the homeowners who opened their doors, the volunteers who gave their time and energy before and during the event, and the 19 sponsors and advertisers whose support helped make the tour such

a success. Your combined efforts not only made this event enjoyable but also directly support the care and improvement of our neighborhood park. We are truly grateful to each of you.

The Holiday House Tour continues to be a wonderful example of what our community can accomplish together. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event in any way. We look forward to building on this success and hope to see even more neighbors involved in the years to come.

Thank you for helping make Crescent Hills such a warm and welcoming place to live!



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timothymizerak@gmail.com

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Jan Kukucka

Welcome
Juleen Madera

CrescentHillsCivicAssociation@gmail.com

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crescenthillscivicasociation

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