

Colonial Hills Courier

OCTOBER 2025 - A PUBLICATION OF THE COLONIAL HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION (CHCA)

Hello Friends and Neighbors!!

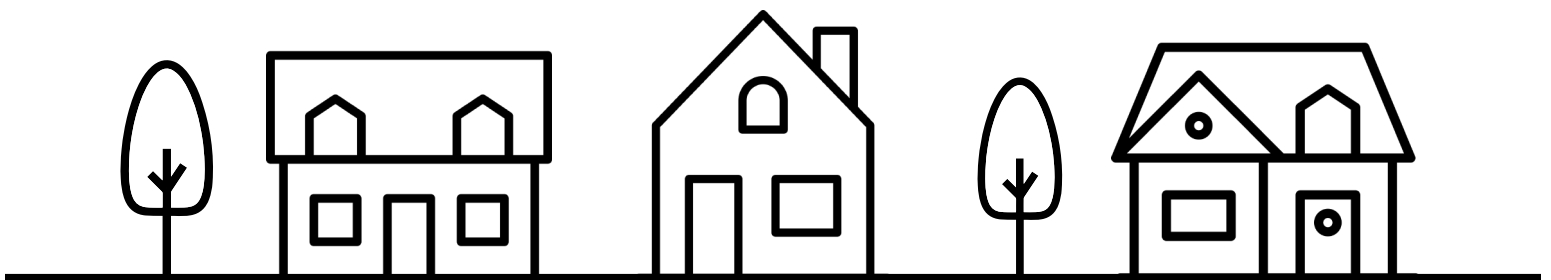
I hope that you have had a glorious summer, filled with fun and adventure!! Is it just me, or did we have the most fantastic weather ever? Aside from a lack of rainfall, it seemed that we had picture perfect days for heading to the Worthington Farmers Market, or splashing in the Worthington pool, or swinging at Selby and Indianola parks, or maybe leisurely biking ride around the Hills—this summer seemed to have flown by!!

There is much to look forward to in Colonial Hills, as we start leaning into Fall—believe it or not, it is not too early to start gathering those “skeletons in the closet” for the Annual Halloween Decorating Contest. And if you are a trick or treater, you won’t want to miss the Halloween Party and Pumpkin Patch!! We are also coming up on our annual Neighborhood Food Drive, which supports both the Worthington Resource Pantry and St. Vincent DePaul at St Michael.

Circling back to the Halloween Party—**we are actively searching for a Co-Chair for the Halloween Party and would love to hear from you for this volunteer opportunity!** We have received much positive feedback from families who attend our events—the officers of the CHCA are just like you, with jobs, kids, activities and “stuff” to juggle. We volunteer our time to CHCA because we love this neighborhood, with its traditions, events and sense of community. Please consider joining us on the second Tuesday of each month at the Selby Park Shelter House at 7:30 pm, to see how you can get involved!!

See you around the Hills!

Kindest regards,
Leslie Caruso



Colonial Hills

~ The Friendly Community ~

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BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

Not a member of the CHCA? You can join for \$15/ family or \$5/single or senior. Mail checks made payable to CHCA to address above or pay online at colonialhills.us.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Courier is published by the Colonial Hills Civic Association and distributed to approximately 800 homes.

Residents are encouraged to contribute articles for publication.

Please submit questions, ideas, content and/or updates by email to christopher.rule@gmail.com or by mail, address above.

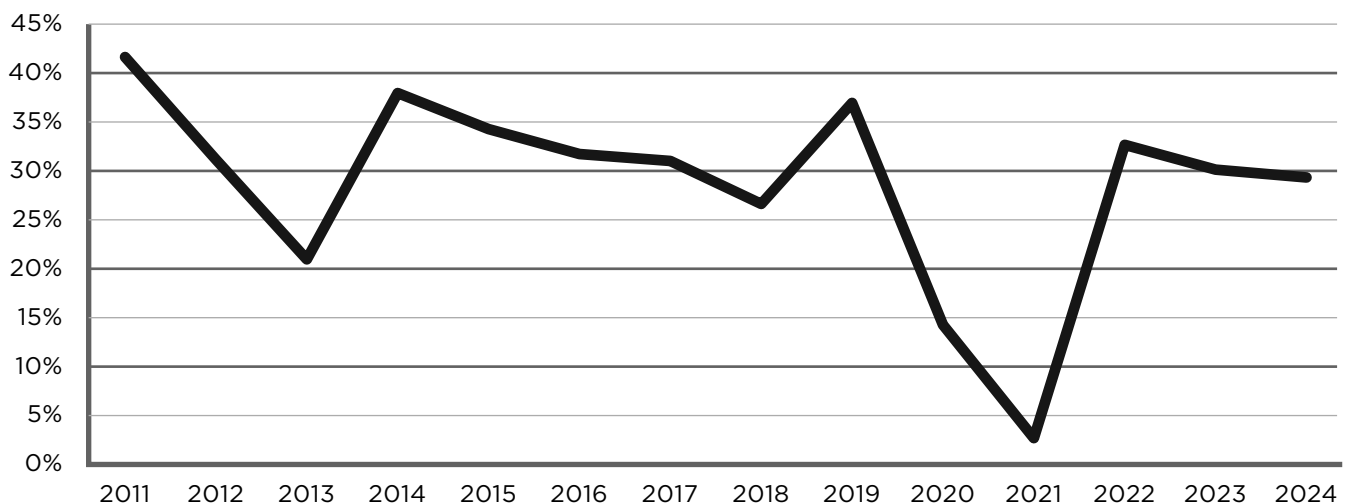
SUPPORTING COLONIAL HILLS THROUGH MEMBERSHIP DUES

Our neighborhood thrives when we work together, and one of the ways we do that is through the Colonial Hills Civic Association. Membership dues play an important role in keeping our community safe, welcoming, and connected.

These dues fund the CHCA Scholarship Fund, this newsletter and the community events we all treasure—like the Easter Egg Hunt, the Fourth of July Picnic, the Halloween Party, and the Holiday Luminaries. Every contribution, no matter the size, directly benefits our shared quality of life.

So far this year, only 26% of homes in Colonial Hills have paid membership dues. Since 2011, participation has steadily declined (see chart below). To keep our neighborhood traditions strong, our goal is to return to at least 40% participation. With your support, we can get there together.

MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION



If you haven't yet contributed your dues, please consider doing so today. It's a small investment that makes a big difference in keeping Colonial Hills vibrant and welcoming for everyone.

Together, we can reach our goals and continue building a community we're all proud to call home.

2025 4TH OF JULY REVIEW

A hearty thank you to Overall Event Chair Amanda Rule, her two other Park Overlook committee members Ashley Chaney and Mandie DeWine, and the over 60 other volunteers for a wonderful 4th of July event—an event many would say was even better than last year, which event last year “may well have been the best Colonial Hills 4th of July subsequent to fifty years ago...”

Even better than last year? The overall event chair and her team, and the Event Chairs for the 5K Race Jeff Spain and Courtney Jolley, the Event Chairs for the Kiddie Parade Mary Ann Ogle and Robin Ogle, Emcee Chris Rule, plus Ron Sears, the Midway Master, and the CHCA Officers, all spent months planning for, and then flawlessly executing, our 2025 Fourth of July Extravaganza.

All the delightful activities from last year were back - a double lane slip ‘n’ slide, little kids bounce house, big kids bounce house, dunk tank, face painting, Kona Ice, Cotton Candy, both a youth and an adult watermelon eating contest, and new for this year, the Colonial Hills Cub Scout Pack 331 providing the food - burgers, hot dogs, chips and pop, and of course, the midway games and activities.

Games, games and more games: the traditional games Plinko, Go Fish, Duck Pond, Ring Toss, Lollipop Tree; Ron’s new games and activities from last year Bubble Whack, Riot Ball, Gravity Well and Buttons & Pictures; and Ron’s new games for this year Axe Throw and Air Raid - all comfortably housed under ten new pop-up tents donated by Ron - and highlighted with Ron’s streamers over the midway as the CHCA’s 79th 4th of July!



Also, a great big thanks to our sponsor Cynthia MacKenzie, CYMACK Real Estate for their generous support of our event.

And a final thank you to Kate LaLonde, Executive Director, Worthington Historical Society (WHS), who researched and edited newspaper articles about the CHCA's founding and its early 4th of July celebrations into a poster-sized montage PDF, a poster which we proudly displayed this year at our CHCA Suggestions for Next Year tent.

ANNUAL RUN THROUGH THE HILLS RESULTS

The 5k Race Co-Chairs Courtney Jolley and Jeff Spain and their volunteers yet again made this event run like clockwork, from publicity and signup to the runners and walkers competing and enjoying the course thru Colonial Hills, the 46th running of this traditional Colonial Hills event.

We congratulate everyone who participated, and this year we are thrilled to announce the following spectacular times for the overall winning male and female runners:

- Zane Keppler (15:17.44) - a new Run Through the Hills course record!
- Riley Tate (18:18.17) - the 4th best ever female time!



2025 COMPETITION WINNERS

2025 Kiddie Parade Winners, by Category

Long-time Kiddie Parade Chair Mary Ann Ogle, along with her Co-Chair Robin Ogle, again expertly planned and conducted this traditional 4th of July event, which started after the 5k Race awards had been handed out, and as soon as Robin and Mary Ann could organize the participants at the starting line. And as usual, Mary Ann firmly maintained safety for all the participants, by putting the hammer down on the speeding bicyclists who were well ahead of the pack, as these speedsters completed their first lap around Selby Park. And the kids (with maybe some parental assistance) did a great job this year decorating their mode of transportation!

Mary Ann and Robin thank their judges: Jim Kidd, Kay Hoffman, Patrick and Jenna Bracken, Chris Wethington, and Kathy Moore, who took on the hard task of selecting the most festive decorations in the parade for these winners in the following categories:



Bicycles

- 1st place tie: **Eli Thines** (6yrs) and **Hannah Hughes** (6yrs)
- 2nd place group: **Joey** (4yrs) **Emily** (2yrs) **Mittelman**, **Noah Mertz** (15yrs)
- 3rd place tie: **Bowen Reed** (8yrs) and **Elijah Fry** (8yrs)

Strollers

- 1st place: **Amy Guerrer** (1yr)
- 2nd place: **Brittany Smith (Leo)** (23mo)
- 3rd place: **Torre Rehr** (14mo)

Scooters

- 1st place tie: **Evelyn White** (9yrs) and **Iris Johnson** (9yrs)
- 2nd place: **Adam** (7yrs) and **Anthony** (4yrs) **Long**
- 3rd place: **Grant Bednar** (3yrs)

Wagons and Floats

- 1st place: **Emma** (3yrs) and **Sophia** (3yrs)
- 2nd place: **Rowan** (5yrs) **Masie** (1yr) **Best**
- 3rd place: **Miriah** (14mo) **Ellis**

Dogs and Walkers

- 1st place: **Betty** (1yr)
- 2nd place tie: **Tommy** and **Moode**

Watermelon Eating Contest Winners, by Category

The firm, but immensely entertaining, judge for the two contests made sure that the following winners were the first in their age group to finish their slice so that absolutely, and indisputably, no red was showing:

- Youth: A. Buckley
- Adult: Donovan LaDuke

Note: If you did not collect your prize ribbon at the awards presentation on the 4th, Mrs. Ogle will give your ribbon to you at any Civic Association meeting at the shelter house.

If there are any corrections to this information please e-mail the CHCA webmaster at willpearce@columbus.rr.com.



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HALLOWEEN HOUSE DECORATING COMPETITION

JUDGING ON
OCTOBER 28
AT 7 PM

Halloween is coming! And while some prefer the pumpkin spice latte fall festival front yard vibe, complete with scarecrows and hay bales, others prefer to trade in nightmare creation. Whichever your preference (VP of Communication votes the Great Pumpkin), pull out all the stops for the 7th Annual Halloween Decoration Contest, to be judged on Tuesday, October 28th, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The five categories are: Spookiest, Friendliest, Most Creative, Best Effects and Best Activity. Have fun with your dastardly décor, let's make this another memorable spook-fest in the neighborhood.

HALLOWEEN PARTY AND PUMPKIN PATCH

OCTOBER 26,
3-5 PM,
SELBY PARK

Editorial Note: We are actively recruiting an Event Co-Chair for this.

Crafts, party games, bags of candy, and dress up. While that may represent a typical Tuesday for some of you All-Star parents out there, for the rest of us, the Halloween Party hosted in the Selby Park Shelterhouse is a great opportunity to make some memories. Bonus points if the parents dress up in matching costumes to their kids. So

get your Halloween Costumes on a trial run a few days early and come enjoy the festivities your CHCA will put on for you! As always, our wonderful sponsor Cynthia MacKenzie and Cymack Real Estate will be hosting the best (and most economical) pumpkin patch out in the field with pumpkins for everyone who stops by! Whether the Great Pumpkin will stop by or not, it will be fun for all. Stop by for Halloween fun, and don't forget to take a picture in the pumpkin patch!

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CHCA OFFICER ELECTIONS

Mark Your Calendars! Election Night is November 11th, 7:30 pm at the Selby Park Shelter House. It's not too late to Enter the Race for these KEY positions!!! Not only would we LOVE some participation and competition in these races, we would actually just love for more residents to participate and be part of the team that makes your neighborhood Civic Association amazing.

NOVEMBER 11,
7:30 PM,
SELBY PARK
SHELTER HOUSE

- President (incumbent/Leslie Caruso; 20-year resident, let's be honest, no reason to vote against her, she is the best!)
- Vice-President of Events (incumbent/Alan Miroslaw; So dedicated to his neighborhood that even a fire couldn't keep him down)
- Vice-President of Communications (incumbent/Chris Rule; he has been tardy so often that the school is sending home notices)
- Treasurer (Incumbent/Matt McKeegan; Details, details, details - the guy has it down)
- Secretary (Incumbent/Brittany Smith; when you miss a meeting, simply read the minutes and you don't miss a beat)
- Webmaster (Incumbent /Will Pearce; L-E-G-E-N-D.)

CHCA officer elections will take place during the November meeting. All residents of Colonial Hills are welcome and encouraged to run. Every officer position for CHCA is up for election : President, Vice-President of Events, Vice President of Communications, Secretary, and Treasurer. Here is the reality, neighbors; we are only as good as the people who show up

Any of us would love to split duties, train someone new, get more neighbors involved. All positions have one-year terms. Officers are responsible to attend the once-per-month CHCA meetings, held on the second Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. The meetings generally last about one hour, and are best described as low key, "working" meetings focused on what needs to be done ahead of the next community event. The meetings are fun!! We don't take ourselves too seriously and we work as a team to get things done. Depending on what position you hold, you might expect to commit another two-three hours per month, and you may be asked to help volunteer for an event. If you would like to learn more about these opportunities, please reach out to any of the officers via email. We hope to hear from you!!

John S. Jones

Attorney at Law

John is a long-time Colonial Hills resident whose practice focuses on Estate Planning & Estate Administration.

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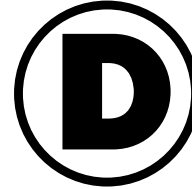
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FOOD DRIVE

Saturday November 8, we plan on once again partnering with the Cub Scouts as part of their annual tradition of helping our neighbors through donating during the Colonial Hills Food Drive. Food and hygiene products are welcome donations and will be split between the Worthington Resource Pantry and St Vincent DePaul at St Michael. You can donate ahead of time if you would like through **worthingtonresourcepantry.org** and **saintmichael-cd.org/social-concerns/svdp** to continue to help your neighbors in need. Keep making the holiday season a season of giving, not about getting!

HOLIDAY PREVIEW & EVENTS FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR

October 26 - Halloween Party and Pumpkin Patch

October 28 - Halloween Decorating Contest

October 31 - Trick or Treat in Colonial Hills

November 8 - Annual Food Drive

November 11 - CHCA Officer Election

December 6 - Luminary Kit Assembly

December 14 - Holiday Party

December 14 - Luminary Night

December 16 - Holiday Decorating Contest

THANK YOU TO LESLIE

The Presidency is a tricky thing. Blamed for more than it deserves, often credited for more than it has earned. It is a good thing we can look to the President for encouraging words, ethical conduct, and a doggone hard work ethic and servant hearted love for neighbor. Leslie Caruso deserves these accolades and more as the President of the Colonial Hills Civic Association. She is quick to volunteer, quick to fill a need, passes along credit even when she deserves it, and as kind a neighbor as anyone could want.

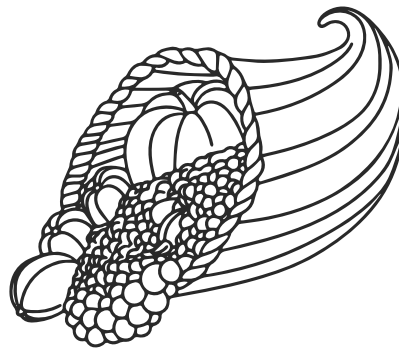
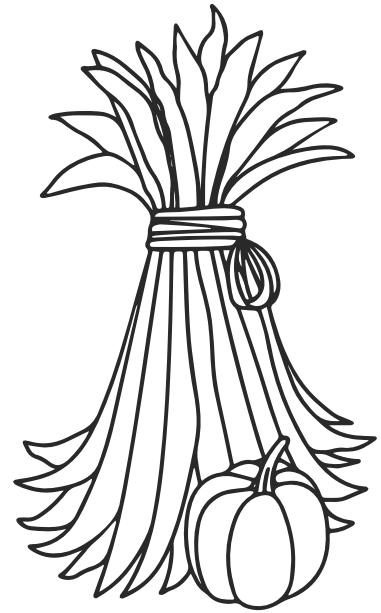
As a small but mighty team, we are thankful to have her as our fearless leader, determined to see this neighborhood be the best that it can be. If you see her in the neighborhood, please tell her thank you. Better yet, even more than your thanks, I know Leslie would love your participation. So stop by on the second Tuesday of the month to the CHCA Monthly meeting and learn how you can be involved. Because a faithful leader like Leslie deserves neighbors who jump in to help (so she doesn't always have to). Thanks Leslie, we appreciate you!



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LUMINARY KITS ASSEMBLY

DECEMBER 6,
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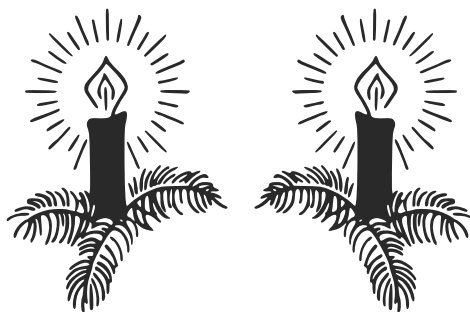
Please save the date for Saturday, December 6, at 10:00 AM—the first Saturday in December—to come over to the shelter house for our Luminary Kits Assembly event. We hope to be completed with our assembly tasks by around 11:00 AM, the same as last year, when 29 adult and 13 youth volunteers, completed assembly for 902 kits for our 826 homes in Colonial Hills at 10:50 AM, one of the fastest times on record. So, shovelers, don't bury your garden shovel at the back of the garage just yet!

I will be writing another article for the next Courier and a blogpost for the website, explaining the volunteer positions for this event. This article and blogpost will give the link for the SignUpGenius, which also will be publicized via both the CHCA and the Colonial Hills Facebook pages by around the second week in November.

The same as the previous three years, signing up via SignUpGenius for a given position and arriving about 5 to 10 minutes before 10:00 AM, will reserve this position for you. After all reserved positions have been filled, we will assign those volunteers who didn't sign up beforehand, to fill any remaining inside and outside positions -- please note that we are grateful for all volunteers, and we try as much as possible to find a position for everyone.

The energy and camaraderie of this event is palpable – lots of activity, conversations with neighbors new and old, even the youngsters helping out -- plus the donuts, coffee and hot chocolate!

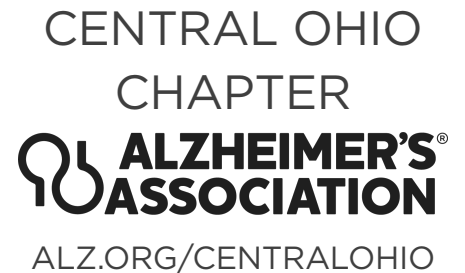
Will Pearce
Event Chair



DEMENTIA AWARENESS PRESENTATION

During the September 9, 2025 CHCA meeting, Melissa Rouse, R.N. led a discussion about the Central Ohio Chapter Alzheimer's Association ("COCAA"). The organization is focused on community outreach, offering three core services:

- Care Consultation
- Education
- Support Groups



Ms. Rouse manages the Central Ohio chapter, which serves the residents of Franklin County. Melissa explained that dementia is an umbrella term for memory loss; that there are different types of dementia, with 70% of dementia cases attributed to Alzheimer's.

One of COCAA's primary goals is to help families connect with resources to assist in preparing for the future. Additionally, COCAA provides information on risk factors, early warning signs, how to communicate with someone who has dementia, and how to connect with a support group (there are currently 16 support groups existing in Central Ohio).

Melissa also noted that there is a toll free 24/7 helpline that is available all day, every day—the number is 800.272.3900. In addition, the website ALZ.org provides access to information and resources, such as needs assessment and creating a custom action plan; connecting with other caregivers or people with dementia; and getting information for all stages of the disease. Melissa welcomes calls to her directly as well; her number is 614.643.2135

BABYSITTER LISTINGS

Melina Balch, 614-271- 7688⁺
Daphne Darbaker, 614-354-8200 (Patricia)
Lucy Darbaker, 614-354-8200 (Patricia)
Ali Diehl, 614-633-8059⁺
Beth Eader, 614-361-3832
Elisabeth Friend, ecfriend3@outlook.com^{*}
Ruth Glass, glassruth@icloud.com⁺
Eva Graff, 614.329.6898⁺
Lexi Gregory & Camille Kamradt, 614-937-6501^{+(BB)}
Audrey Holton, 740-221-0146 (cell)^{+(BB)}
Etta Kilzer-Whisman, 614-749-9513
Regan Jones, 614-318-9182
Zoe Lawhead, 614-361-3832
Lily Millwater, 614-844-3836 (cell) or 614-396-6144⁺
Julia Orloff, 614-885-4963⁺
Alaina and Charlie,
 thewatchfuleyebabysitting@gmail.com^{+(BB)}
Norah Steidle, 614-668-6793; Parent helper for
 kids ages 2-4

+ = Red Cross certified

** = Girl Scout certified*

(SS) = Safesitter certified

(BB) = Better Babysitters class

*This list also appears on the CHCA website; to be
 added or removed, email christopher.rule@gmail.com*

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