



Hillcrest Community Civic Association

"Working together for a better community"

www.HillcrestDC.com

P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895, phone 202-584-2703

JANUARY 2010

Next Meeting: Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010, at 10 a.m.

At the Hillcrest Recreation Center, Corner of Denver & 32nd Streets, SE

NOTE: Meetings are normally held the first Saturday of the month.

SPEAK OUT, HILLCREST Mark the New Year with an Open Forum

Special points of interest:

- *President Williams takes a look back at 2009.*
- *Protecting Your Home—consider a home camera.*
- *Follow these tips when traveling.*

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Greetings, all and Happy New Year. The board of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association is providing you with the opportunity once more to speak out on your particular concerns.

Does anything irk you about your neighborhood, about the way in which things are done? Do you feel your voice has not been heard? Do you have simple solutions to common everyday problems? Or do you want to rave about how things work? Then, HCCA wants to hear

from you.

For the New Year, 2010, the HCCA board will be hosting an open forum in lieu of a guest speaker this month. We will have about 45 minutes for questions and answers.

We have two requests to foster the maximum amount of participation.

1. Prepare in advance, and limit your questions or comments to 90 seconds.
2. As an option, you can



e-mail questions or comments before the meeting, klwilliams@hillcrestdc.com.

We are looking for constructive feedback from the membership as we work toward the continued health and wellbeing of the civic association.

Community Calendar for January

- 2 10 a.m. HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Community Center, 32nd & Denver St., SE
- 4 7 p.m. Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting, Francis Gregory Library, 3660 Alabama Ave., SE
- 13 10 a.m. Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting, Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
- 20 6 p.m. PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting, Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE
- 21 7 p.m. ANC 7B Monthly Meeting, Ryland Methodist Church, 3200 "S" St., SE

Scout meeting every Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m.—Cub Scouts; 11 a.m.—Boy Scouts at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Now that we are entering not just another year but another decade, let's take a minute to look back. 2009 was a great year for HCCA; it was our 20th anniversary. Before we move into our 21st year, I would like to



HCCA President Karen Williams joins in the tree planting in 2008 with (L-R) Ann Curtsinger, Don Murray and Kathy Chamberlain.

acknowledge the efforts of the board of directors who work behind the scenes to make HCCA the best civic association in the city.

First, I want to thank **Carrie Thornhill** for chairing the 20th anniversary effort. Carrie did a wonderful job, but I also have to thank her hard working and dedicated committee who made September 2009 a month to remember. I want to thank our Hospitality Chair **Yvonne Burke** for delivering the coffee and treats for our monthly meetings. While I rarely get an opportunity to enjoy any of the goodies, I'm sure the association members appreciate her efforts as much as I do.

I want to thank **Kathy Chamberlain**

for keeping the Web site up and running. We have had many compliments on our Web site, and we have been acknowledged as having one of the best Web sites for any civic association in the country. I agree.

I want to thank **Mary Ross** for the Blessing of the Trees Festival. I want to thank the **Evans** family: **Monica** for keeping the books straight and keeping us honest, **Richard** for keeping us awake and laughing and **Richard Hamilton** for bringing a smile to everyone's face.

I want to thank **David Kirkpatrick** for taking over the Neighborhood Watch and bringing Santa to our holiday party. I have to apologize to him for cutting Santa off in the middle of his song, but next year I'll make up for it, I promise. I want to thank **Yvonne Dupree** for always coming through with those minutes. I've been there and done that and it takes an extra special person to get those minutes straight.

I want to thank **Michelle Phipps-Evans** for getting our newsletter out on time. I also want to thank Michelle for keeping our name and image out in the public as our Communications Chair. I want to thank **Pastor Franklin Senger**, our longest serving board member, for always coming out and supporting us, and don't forget **Kenneth Burke**, who always lets me know when I'm not conforming to Roberts Rules, and **Chaplin John Hawkins**,

who never ceases to amaze and inspire me with his monthly messages. Then, there's **Boyle Stuckey**, who has done a wonderful job forging a partnership with our recreation center and schools. And we can't forget our Membership Chair **Franklin Anderson** and our Garden Tour Committee headed by **Carin Bigrigg**.

Even though he is not a board member, I have to thank **Scott Akin** for his wonderful Christmas decorations.

You did a wonderful job bringing the spirit of the season to the multi-purpose room at the rec. center,

sorry we ran out of time. And last but not least **Marvin Bowser**, I want to thank you for having my back.

There are so many wonderful people who work to keep our civic association viable; there is no way I can list them all in this month's letter, but you know who you are. I want to thank all the members and supporters of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association for being the wonderful, caring people you are. For your efforts to help your neighbors, your community, and your city prosper.

THANK YOU AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Karen

THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO

Did You Know You Can.....

- **Visit HCCA's Historical Slide Show Online**—View our fantastic Web site and you will find a historical slide show of neighborhood events through the past several years. Photos of the 20th anniversary celebration are also displayed. The Web site is www.hillcrestdc.com.

- **Pay HCCA Dues Using Credit Card**—You can now pay your HCCA dues via the Internet using a credit card. Pay for several years. Click www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm or visit the www.HillcrestDC.com, choose "Join or Pay Dues" and follow the links. HCCA is using a service called Pay-

Pal. You don't have to join PayPal to pay with credit card, and no one on the HCCA board sees your credit card number. We expect to offer this method of payment for future events, such as tickets for the annual Hillcrest Garden Tour. Call Kathy Chamberlain with any questions, (202) 581-8272.

HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES

Protecting Your

Home—HomeCamera is an Internet home surveillance camera system that is easy to set up. Simply download the free Windows webcam security software, enter your HomeCamera user ID and password, enter a name for your webcam (such as “home” or “livingroom”), and hit Connect. You’re done! Log into your HomeCamera account from any browser on any PC (or even a PDA or mobile phone!) and click on View to access your webcam, as many times as you like, all day, every day, from anywhere in the world. Works on all webcams, and it supports motion detection. And it’s FREE!

It may be the answer to the HCCA Neighborhood Watch camera program. At this time, the service is



Security Cameras

free but in early 2010 users will be charged \$29.95 per year. Go to **homecamera.com**. Under the support section of the home page you will find frequently asked questions. It has several features and it **supports CCTV cameras /“security cameras.”** The info/images are stored on a remote server for 30 days. In the case of a burglary, if your computer is stolen, you still have the video.

HomeCamera lets you share your cameras with other HomeCamera users—you decide who you want

to share them with. Use your existing Windows* PC for up to four cameras—there’s no need to buy expensive systems.

HomeCamera works with all webcams and even CCTV cameras. It includes support for motion detection—using cutting-edge technologies, it can detect movement and send pictures or videos to your mobile phone or your email address.

HomeCamera works on Windows XP and above. The disadvantage is it doesn’t work with Mac at this time and the cameras have to be hardwired.

Imagine, if in your block, just a couple of neighbors had their webcams looking out on the street and something goes down in the neighborhood. The images could be checked for the timeline of the event and come up with a picture of the suspect, vehicle or other good information for investigators. Before the event or after the event. And it would be controlled by individual neighbors (little sisters) not the government (BIG BROTHER). There are many possibilities with this system.

After a few arrests based on the videos and showed on TV, the word would get out that you don’t go to Hillcrest to commit crime. So consider getting the HomeCamera.

Safety Tips When

Traveling—If traveling by vehicle, know where you are going and how to get there and back. Obtain a map or download the latest available GPS data. **Check for construction detours;** for longer trips, get a weather forecast.



If traveling out-of-state, most states or state law enforcement agencies provide road-and-highway information either online or at a 1-800 number; **check** to see what conditions they report before leaving. Visit the Federal Highway Administration’s related webpage...

National Traffic and Road Closure Information

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm>

...for national, regional, and state-by-state **links** regarding traffic, closures, and other conditions. Inform a family member where you will be and when to expect you back; give them your route if they don’t know it.



ANY IDEAS, E-MAIL THE EDITOR AT HILLCRESTDC_NEWSLETTER@YAHOO.COM

Travel & conduct business during daylight hours if possible.

Wherever practical, use well-traveled and lighted thoroughfares. Bear in mind that routes that are congested during rush hour may be lightly traveled at other hours. Use freeways and arterial streets and avoid less-traveled roads as much as possible, especially when driving at night or in unfamiliar locations.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB WWW.HILLCRESTDC.COM
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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2010? Your paid-through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If it is earlier than 2010, please send your payment before Jan. 1, 2010.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ ZIP code: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

New Member: _____ Renewal: _____

I prefer to: ____ read the newsletter on the web (www.HillcrestDC.com) or ____ receive the newsletter in the mail. (Please help us save postage by reading the newsletter online.)

I'd like to serve on the following committee(s): _____

Annual dues are \$12/year in 2010. Make check payable to the
Hillcrest Community Civic Association and mail to:

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