



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 2011

Next Meeting: Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011, 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.

Mayor Vince Gray will be this Month's Speaker

On Jan. 2, 2011, Vincent C. Gray will be sworn in as the sixth elected Mayor of the District of Columbia. He was overwhelmingly elected Nov. 2, garnering nearly 75 percent of the vote. During his campaign, he pledged to help unite the District by focusing on job creation and economic development, a collaborative approach to school reform, safer streets in all neighborhoods, and restoring fiscal responsibility to city government. He will be the HCCA speaker in January.



A native Washingtonian and Hillcrest resident, Gray has tirelessly advocated for District of Columbia residents for more than 30 years. His dedication to children has been the hallmark of his service in both city government and the nonprofit sector. His lifetime of public service to the District can be best summed up by a singular governing philosophy—that the District of Columbia works best as "One City."

Gray began his professional career with The Arc of DC, where he advocated for initiatives on behalf of people with developmental disabilities. In 1991, then-Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly appointed him as the director of the Department of Human Services, where he spearheaded the implementation of several initiatives to address the developmental needs of children. In 1994, he was named the first Executive Director of Covenant House Washington, a faith-based organization that serves homeless and at-risk youth. Gray's dedication to his community and Ward 7 inspired a successful campaign for elected office in 2004 where he defeated the incumbent in the primary. During his first term as Councilman from Ward 7, he chaired a special committee on the prevention of youth violence, and created the Effi Barry HIV/AIDS initiative. Two years after joining the Council, he ran for the citywide office of Chairman of the Council. Running on the theme of "One City," he continued his focus on uniting the disparate racial and economic groups in his hometown. He won the general election with 98 percent of the vote. As chairman, Gray has been a leader in efforts to improve the Council's operations, transparency and oversight capacity, and has been a true champion for school reform.



Special points of interest:

- Take Precautions Against Car Jackings
- Learn about Invasive Species
- January Calendar

Inside this issue:

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Message from the President	2
Did You Know You Can.....	2
Hillcrest News and Updates	3

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

Earl and I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. The end of 2010 was very eventful. There were citywide elections, local elections, and the Hillcrest Community Civic Association's election. Then, there were luncheons and holiday parties, out-of-town guests, tree trimmings, so many activities, so much to do. But we all made it through to the New Year.

So let's all take a week, gather our strength, access our priorities, make our resolutions, take advantage of a new year, a fresh start and hit the ground running in 2011.

See you at the first Hillcrest Community Civic Association meeting of the year on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2011. Happy New Year!

Karen

Condolences

The HCCA board offers its deepest condolences to the family of Billy Chatmon who passed away recently.

He and his wife, Lillian, were HCCA members since 1994; and active members of the community, especially Fort Davis.

20th Anniversary Celebration

The HCCA's 20th Anniversary celebration is now in one link on the website. You can find photos of association activities during the past 20 years, video from the celebration lunch in 2009, the historical slide show, articles, and the recent oral history project on creating a strong D.C. neighborhood.

HCCA members are encouraged to visit the site at <http://www.hillcrestdc.com/anniv20.htm>.

Did You Know You Can.....

- Get a free ultraviolet pen from MPD to mark valuables so they are easier to track, if stolen?

Operation ID has deterred property theft, and recovered valuable items taken during a burglary. By marking what's yours with an invisible ink, you make it easier for police to return your property should you become the victim of theft. It's a good idea to create an inventory of valuables, including make, model, color, serial number, and location item has been

marked. Visit the website to find out more, <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,568102.asp>

- Purchase SmarTrip cards from Safeway?

Metro has made it easier for area residents to take advantage of SmarTrip® with cards now being sold at 39 select Safeway stores since early December. That adds to the number of retail outlets selling them. Shoppers should visit the Safeway customer service desk to purchase a \$5 SmarTrip® card. The card

is available at the Safeway at 2845 Alabama Ave., SE.

- Receive free computer classes from the D.C. Public Library?

Starting Jan. 3, District residents can get free basic computer training—for seniors from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and for beginners between 12:45 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Capitol View Library, 5001 Central Ave., SE. Register at (202) 529-3395 with ByteBack.

HILLCREST NEWS AND UPDATES

Update on the Pennsylvania Avenue Great Streets Project

According to the D.C. Department of Transportation, starting the last week in December, a contractor began water main installation at Alabama Avenue, SE, which will continue to Southern Avenue. The work will be on the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, and may restrict parking from Fort Davis to Southern Avenue, starting the first week in January. This will continue for about two months, weather permitting.

Both sides of the road may be impacted with parking restrictions, depending upon which portion of the storm drainage systems and utilities will be installed. Once this work is complete, reconstruction will begin, including the sidewalk, curb, gutter and roadway. For street, traffic and transportation updates, visit the blog for the HCCA Street, Traffic and Transportation Committee at <http://hccatransport.blogspot.com/>



Carjacking Precautions

Due to the recent increase in carjackings and robberies in the Hillcrest neighborhood, the HCCA Public Safety Committee is offering these

tips to help keep you safe.

- Keep doors locked and windows shut.
- Don't stop to assist a disabled motorist. Instead contact a service station or police.
- When stopped at a light, leave enough room between you and the car in front that you could make an escape.
- Be suspicious of anyone approaching the car with fliers, asking for change or directions. Be ready to leave carefully, even if it means running a red light or stop sign.
- While driving, if struck from behind or in any suspicious way, stay in your vehicle with the doors locked and windows closed until the police arrives. Activate your vehicle's emergency flashers.
- If you're very suspicious, get the other vehicle's license number and drive to the nearest police station or a well-lit area with lots of people.
- If you think you are being followed, drive immediately to an area with lots of lights and people. If possible, drive to the nearest law enforcement office.
- Obtain and use a cellular phone to call for help.

The Enlightened Environmentalist

Invasive Species

There is a lot of attention on "invasive species" in the media these days. This term, invasive species, can refer to either animal or plant life. The designation refers to living organisms that are not native to North America, and are brought to this continent either intentionally or accidentally.

We have heard about the "snakehead" fish that is causing great concern in the Potomac River. There are now Burmese pythons in Florida; which is worrisome because there are few, if any, natural predators for this serpent and many animals do not have defenses against the snake.

This brief article will focus on invasive plant life. (1) Kudzu was introduced in the South as a means of erosion control, but it is now out of control. Already, it has invaded the eastern edge of Algiers Park in the Hillcrest community.

(2) The *Ailanthus* tree can be found in Hillcrest in alleys (even growing out of cracks in concrete), along park edges, and even in yards next to foundations. This tree was introduced in this country more than 200 years ago. We often refer to it as the "trash tree" or the "stinky tree." It is illegal to plant it in the District of Columbia. Rather than use herbicides, the Hillcrest Environmental Committee recommends repeated cutting back and mowing to ground level.

Courtesy the Hillcrest Environmental Newsletter

Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

P.O. Box 30895

CIVIC ASSOCIATION

HILLCREST COMMUNITY



Community Calendar for January

- 3 7 p.m. Friends of Francis Gregory Library Meeting,
Interim Francis Gregory Library, 2100 36th Place, SE
8 10 a.m. HCCA Meeting, Hillcrest Community Center, 32nd & Denver St., SE
12 10 a.m. Goodhope Marketplace Taskforce Meeting
Goodhope Police Substation, 2800 blk Alabama Ave., SE
19 6 p.m. PSA 606 Police/Community Meeting
Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE
20 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

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

Annual dues are \$12/year. Make check payable to the
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